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Fresh bid to revive Jordan-PLO dialogue

King Hussein, Mubarak and Arafat hold surprise talks

AQABA, Jordan, Oct 22, (Agencies): The leaders of Egypt, Jordan and the PLO held a surprise meeting in Jordan today to co-ordinate strategy ahead of the expected declaration of a Palestinian state.

Witnesses said Jordan's King Hussein kissed PLO chairman Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak when they flew in to the Red Sea port of Aqaba on a previously unannounced visit.

It was the king's first meeting with Arafat since Jordan broke ties with the Israeli-occupied West Bank in July.

The three met together first, then with their respective delegations. They had lunch at the king's seafront palace before holding another round of talks.

Boost

Arafat told reporters in Cairo that Mubarak had arranged the talks to push forward an international Middle East peace conference, the Egyptian Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported.

Arafat confirmed the trilateral summit aimed at reviving the Jordan-PLO dialogue which had reached a dead end with Hussein's announcement on July 31 that he was breaking off links with the occupied West Bank.

He said the aim was to boost relations between Jordan and the PLO before next month's crucial meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the PLO's supreme authority, in Algiers.

Arafat, said MENA, noted that the PNC had called for special relations with Jordan.

leading to a future confederation when it last met in Algiers in April 1987.

It quoted the PLO chairman as saying he would lay four options before the PNC: declaration of a Palestinian state under occupation, declaration of a state and a provisional government, formation of a provisional government, or a call for temporary international supervision of the occupied territories.

He also reiterated support for all UN Resolutions related to the Palestine issue. "We recognise all UN resolutions including 242 and 338 and no power on earth can pick up one resolution and reject the other," he said.

The resolutions call on Israel to withdraw from territories occupied in the 1967 war in return for guarantees of peace and recognition of the Jewish state.

The three leaders agree on the principle of an international peace conference but relations between Arafat and Hussein had been cool for months.

Osama Al Baz, director of Mubarak's office for foreign affairs, told reporters Mubarak, King Hussein and Yasser Arafat were seeking a collective Arab peace formula.

"We want the Israeli voter, whether Arab or Jew, to understand where his specific interest lies," Baz said. "Let him know when he casts his vote that there is an Arab partner ready for negotiations."

Issue

"The voter faces the issue of war and peace. If he wants peace, the Arab side is ready," Baz declared.

The two main Israeli parties, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud and the Labour Party of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, are evenly matched in opinion polls ahead of the Nov 1 elections.

A Jordanian source said the PLO would soon issue a statement from its Tunis headquarters that would appeal to Israeli Arab voters.

Baz said details of what King



King Hussein (left) greets PLO leader Arafat at Aqaba airport as President Mubarak (centre) looks on. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hussein, Mubarak and the PLO chairman had agreed would not be divulged immediately, but he described their meeting in the Red Sea port of Aqaba as very significant.

Renew

A Jordan-PLO agreement on a joint approach to peace talks collapsed in February 1986 and the two sides were never fully reconciled.

The king said this week he was ready to renew talks with the PLO and would attend an international peace conference in a joint Jordan-PLO delegation if the Palestinians wished.

His remarks, in a US television interview, were seen in Israel as an attempt to influence the outcome of elections due on Nov 1, in favour of Labour Party leader Shimon Peres, who has pledged to seek an international conference.

King Hussein said a victory for Likud leader and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who opposes an international conference, would be an "absolute disaster".

The 453-member PNC is due to meet on Nov 12 to consider the PLO options. If a Palestinian state is declared, it is expected to be on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 181 passed

in 1947, before the birth of Israel. Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Maguid accompanied Mubarak. Jordan's official news agency Petra said. It said Arafat's aides included his political adviser Hani Al-Hassan, PLO executive committee members Mahmoud Abbas and Mohammed Milhem, and Said Kamal, a PNC member.

Relations

News of the renewal of top-level Jordan-PLO contacts was generally well-received in Amman.

"I hope this meeting will start a

(Continued on Page 2)



Berri

Christians accused of trying to split Lebanon

BEIRUT, Oct 22, (Reuters): Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim leader Nabih Berri accused his Christian rivals today of trying to split the country and said the result would be like splitting an atom.

Berri, head of the Amal militia, said in an interview with Reuters and Visnews television agency the only way to end Lebanon's political crisis was to unite its rival Muslim and Christian governments.

"I hope new violence will not flare because no side can win against the other, but I cannot make any guarantees because the conspiracy is very big," said Berri, whose Syrian-backed Amal movement is the largest Muslim militia in Lebanon.

"Lebanon now is like an atom that if you break will explode and have dangerous consequences on its surroundings," he said.

Berri accused the headline Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia of trying to set up its own Maronite state and said it had sabotaged the election of a pro-Syrian president.

Reforms

Berri said a new head of state could not be elected before reforms were made to give Lebanon's Muslim majority a greater say in the Christian-dominated political system.

"It has now become clear that political reforms should happen before the election of a president. We will not have a president or a parliament without political reforms," he said.

Meanwhile the United Arab Emirates (UAE) today called for an emergency Arab summit on the political crisis in Lebanon, the official emirates news agency WAM said.

It said the Foreign Ministry sent a letter to Arab League Secretary General Cheddi Klibi asking him to take urgent measures to contact Arab leaders and convene the meeting.

Gemayel begins foreign tour to save Lebanon

BEIRUT, Oct 22, (Reuters): Former Lebanese President Amin Gemayel left today on a tour of foreign capitals intended to help break the country's political deadlock, a source close to Gemayel said.

He said Gemayel would visit several Arab and European capitals on a tour lasting several days but he declined to specify the countries.

Partition

Gemayel said in an interview with a Kuwaiti newspaper published today that he would first visit Abu Dhabi and Dubai before going on to other countries.

"I am today more anxious for Lebanon than at any time past, and will try to save it from disintegration and partition more than I tried when I was in power," he said.

Gemayel ended his six-year term a month ago and the presidency has since been vacant because of a power struggle between Christian and Muslim groups.

In his final act as President, Gemayel appointed a government headed by Maronite Christian Army Commander Michel Aoun, which has vied for power with an administration led by Sunni Muslim acting Prime

Minister Selim Al Hoss.

Gemayel also said the right-wing Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia had pressured him to leave the country.

Gemayel's private militia was disbanded and absorbed by the Lebanese Forces shortly after he stepped down. He said Deputy Commander Karim Paqraddouni of the Lebanese Forces had threatened his wife after he refused to answer Paqraddouni's telephone calls.

Warning

"The deputy commander of the Lebanese Forces gave her a warning to me that I leave Lebanon within 48 hours or else there would be dangerous consequences... my wife replied that we were staying in our house even if they bombed it and destroyed it above all of our heads," Gemayel said.

"Now they prevent my friends from travelling and force them to forfeit their private property," he added.

"They say that Amin Gemayel amassed a huge fortune during his presidency... this is the biggest service they can do for me because public opinion will discover through them that Amin Gemayel did not amass a fortune and only possesses what his father willed him."

Hezbollah fighters vow revenge

Air raid victims buried

RASHAYA, Lebanon, Oct 22, (Agencies): Iranian-backed militants vowed revenge today as they buried six people killed by yesterday's Israeli air raid in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

Fighters from Hezbollah, wearing military fatigues, hoisted the six coffins shoulder-high as they marched through the narrow unpaved streets of Mashghara to the cemetery, witnesses said.

"Israel, Israel, our fighters will not kneel down... we shall take revenge," chanted fist-waving militants.

Muslim prayers echoed across Mashghara and black flags fluttered from balconies.

The six, including a four-year-old boy, were killed when Israeli planes blasted Hezbollah bases around Mashghara. Three others were killed by a similar raid southeast of Sidon on Palestinian positions.

Police said today the final death toll climbed to 16 when one of the wounded died. The total

number of people wounded stood at 34.

The strikes, launched to avenge the killing of seven Israeli soldiers by a suicide bomber in South Lebanon on Wednesday, were the bloodiest in Lebanon this year. Hezbollah claimed responsibility for the bombing, the most devastating against Israeli forces since 1985.

Israeli warplanes flew thunderous supersonic runs over the ancient city of Baalbek in East Lebanon overnight, fuelling fears of an imminent attack on the main stronghold of pro-Iranian extremists, police said today.

Police said sonic booms jolted the population of Baalbek out of their beds as Israeli jets crashed the sound barrier in several low altitude runs after midnight (2200 GMT) yesterday.

"They've seldom done such a thing since the 1982 invasion," said a police spokesman who cannot be named under standing regulations. "People are afraid their city will be the next target for Israel's retaliation to the suicide bombing."

Silent

The pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad group was silent today about the fate of its two American hostages, whom it threatened to harm in reprisal for the air raids.

The shadowy group, believed to be a branch of Hezbollah, holds American Terry Anderson, 40, Middle East bureau chief of the Associated Press, and Thomas Sutherland, dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut. Amal militia leader Nabih Berri said today that kidnapping was an "unforgivable crime" saying American hostages should not be killed to avenge Israel's latest air raid on Lebanon.

Syria and its Palestinian allies are massing troops near the south Lebanon port of Sidon, security and political sources said today.

They said Syria had redeployed 3,000 of the 7,000 troops it had in Beirut's southern suburbs along the coastal road linking the capital to Sidon over the past week.



A fighter wounded during the Israeli raid on Mashghara in Lebanon, is rushed to an ambulance by fellow militiamen. (Reuters wirephoto)

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اخبار و صفحات

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- جنوبی لبنان میں شای فوجوں کا اجتماع
- شارجہ ٹرائی میں دست اندازی کی جیت
- ایم آر ڈی کے بارے میں پیپلز پارٹی کی وضاحت
- سکھ احتجاجیوں نے تیرہ افراد کو ہلاک کر دیا
- عید میلاد النبی کے سلسلہ میں خصوصی مضمون

WEATHER

FAIR weather with light to moderate southeasterly wind.
State of sea: slight to moderate
High water: 10.00 am, 10.30 pm
Low water: 4.30 pm
Sunrise: 5.53 am
Sunset: 5.10 pm
Maximum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 35°C 95°F
Ahmad: 30°C 86°F
Falkland: 30°C 86°F
Maximum temperature expected:
Kuwait: 33°C 91°F
Ahmad: 30°C 86°F
Falkland: 30°C 86°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 44 per cent
Ahmad: 44 per cent
Falkland: 50 per cent
Maximum humidity expected:
Kuwait: 50 per cent
Ahmad: 60 per cent
Falkland: 60 per cent

Iraq to free 25 sick Iranian POWs

MANAMA, Oct 22, (Agencies): Iraq announced today it would unilaterally release 25 sick Iranian prisoners of war as a gesture of goodwill, to get stalled Gulf war peace talks back on the road.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman quoted by the official Iraqi News Agency said the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross had been asked to take the necessary measures to repatriate the prisoners.

Deadlocked

The spokesman said Iraq's stand "on this humanitarian issue" emphasises its goodwill and desire to remove all obstacles hindering a comprehensive and durable peace.

Peace talks between the two former combatants have remained deadlocked since the August UN-sponsored ceasefire

on the issue of the disputed Shatt Al-Arab waterway — which both sides claim sovereignty over.

Sunday, Iraq offered a joint cleanup of the channel from mines and sunken ships with Iraq, but Baghdad refused for fear such a move might compromise its sovereignty claim.

Strengthening

Iraq then offered to exchange an estimated 100,000 prisoners of war with Iran, but Tehran dismissed Baghdad's offer as a "new propaganda play".

Iraq's Foreign Ministry spokesman today accused Iran of playing games with the cause of peace and the fate of thousands of Iraqi and Iranian prisoners.

"With the aim of achieving political ends."

With the release of another 25 prisoners, the total number of

Iranian POWs freed by Iraq so far rose to 645, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

On Thursday, Iran's acting military commander Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said prisoners of war from both sides should be released "after strengthening of the Aug 25 ceasefire and withdrawal of forces to internationally recognised borders."

The Iraqi spokesman was quoted as saying the decision to release the prisoners was in response to an ICRC request that the POWs issue not be linked with the political issues, "negotiations about which might take some time."

He was quoted as saying that the release of prisoners "would not affect the implementation of Resolution 598 in the sequence of its provisions."

13 killed in Punjab shooting

CHANDIGARH, Oct 22, (AP): Suspected Sikh extremists shot and killed 13 people today, including a state leader of the ruling Congress Party, police said.

Nachhattar Singh, a Congress leader and president of the Punjab National Motor Transport Union, was gunned down as he got off a bus in the village of Badhni Khurd, police said.

In Firozpur district, five gunmen armed with AK-47 Chinese-made assault rifles opened fire on a group of untouchables in a resettlement colony near the Pakistan border.

Twelve were killed instantly and seven others were wounded. The United News of India news agency said the victims were brewing illegal liquor along a canal.

Rocket attack

ISLAMABAD, Oct 22, (Reuters): Guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan government rocketed and shelled the northern town of Kunduz today, killing two people and wounding 14, the official Kabul Radio said.

Monks urge dissolution of Sri Lankan parliament

COLOMBO, Oct 22, (Reuters): Buddhist monks in Sri Lanka have called on the government to dissolve parliament immediately and hold presidential and parliamentary elections under a caretaker regime to help restore peace on the island.

Their letter, dated Oct 20 and released to the press today, was signed and sent to President Junius Jayewardene by the four chief prelates on behalf of the island's 25,000 monks.

They also urged the govern-

ment to take "meaningful steps" acceptable to all citizens after discussions with various party leaders to conduct fair elections.

Demands

Leaders of seven main opposition parties made similar demands at a meeting with Jayewardene yesterday. The demand for dissolution of parliament comes amid tensions following daily political killings and anti-government strikes and protests blamed on Marxist rebels.

Police have said the Marxist People's Liberation Front, composed of majority Sinhalese youth, was behind the killings of more than 450 people, mostly ruling United National Party supporters and security men, in the past 14 months.

The front is protesting against a pact, signed by Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in July last year, seeking an end to unrest by minority Tamils. The group describes the pact as a sell-out to India.

The government said on Thursday it was halting operations against the front for at least a week in an attempt to end political killings.

The government, which yesterday set Dec 19 for presidential elections, had no immediate comment on the demand for a dissolution of parliament. But it said that it would meet representatives of the seven opposition parties next week and would state its position on their demands.

S. Africa unveils new highly mobile armoured car

JOHANNESBURG, Oct. 22, (Reuters): Pretoria's secretive arms industry, flourishing despite an international boycott, unveiled today a highly mobile armoured car that would have been ideal for the Angolan war that South Africa has just left.

Called the Rooikat, which in the Afrikaans language means a lynx-like cat called the caracal, the weapon was proudly presented to the public by Defence Minister Magnus Malan who described it as "the only one of its kind in the world."

Weighing 27 tonnes but capable of driving at 120 km per hour (75 mph), the vehicle is touted as ideally suited to warfare in bush and desert terrain. It looks like a tank except that it has wheels.

Barred

Journalists were taken to see the vehicle put through its paces on a testing ground near Pretoria yesterday, but were barred from reporting on the weapon until today when Malan made the formal announcement at a stadium near Johannesburg.

At the testing ground, South African Army chief General Kat Liebenberg said the Rooikat was designed for missions deep into enemy territory — but he declined to say which of South Africa's enemies he had in mind.

Ironically the Rooikat is being launched only weeks after South African forces pulled out of the bush war in Angola, for which it was presumably designed.

South African troops left Angola in late August as part of a complex peace process aimed at ending the conflict in Angola and giving independence to neighbouring Namibia, which Pretoria runs in defiance of the United Nations.

The Rooikat's main armament is a 76 millimetre gun firing armour-piercing shells which, the makers claim, can in certain conditions knock out full-size tanks twice the vehicle's size.

But its main selling points are its high speed, ability to manoeuvre over rough country and 1,000 km (600-mile) range.

Malan said the Rooikat was an indirect result of an 11-year-old international embargo on arms sales to South Africa which led Pretoria to develop its own weapons industry.

Armcor, the state-run arms manufacturer, has become one of South Africa's industrial giants with an annual turnover of three billion rand (\$1.2 billion).

Refuses

It is also South Africa's largest exporter of manufactured goods — although Armcor refuses to say who its customers are.

Reporters at the Pretoria testing ground ran into a wall of silence when they pressed Armcor officials for details of the company's operations.

But the officials did not deny reports that South Africa sells weapons to more than 30 countries and that Armcor's much-vaunted G-5 howitzer had been supplied to Iran for use in the Gulf war.

"The Rooikat has sale potential. We are watching the market for opportunities," Johan van Vuuren, Armcor's executive general manager, told a news conference.

Armcor stressed that the Rooikat and its weaponry were almost entirely locally made. Only "a few nuts and bolts" were imported, one official said.

Two Greek crewmen dead

Girl still missing in fatal ship collision

PIRAEUS, Greece, Oct. 22, (AP): A 14-year-old girl was missing today after an Italian freighter rammed into a Greek cruise ship carrying 475 British students and teachers, officials said.

Two Greek seamen were reported killed in the collision yesterday outside Piraeus harbour at 6.30 pm (1630 GMT) yesterday.

The passengers were flying back to England aboard four charter jets. The first plane with 140 people aboard, some still wrapped in blankets, took off from Athens airport just before 1 pm (1000 GMT).

A British embassy official said the girl, Vivienne Barley, from Walsall in England's West Midlands region, was the only person still unaccounted for.

Searching

Frogmen and Coast Guard crews were searching the area where the Epirotiki Lines cruise ship, the 6,300-tonne Jupiter, sank, less than a mile (1.6 kilometres) from Piraeus harbour at the start of an eight-day educational cruise.

A Merchant Marine Ministry official said radio appeals were broadcast "for anyone who may have seen her or picked her up to contact us."

Epirotiki spokesman Spyros Mavrikis said the girl was last seen by friends aboard the ship. "Some friends said they saw her as she was about to get in the water and she looked very scared ... we're still hoping," Mavrikis said.

The hastily assembled rescue flotilla plucked the youngsters and adults from the oily water, which was filled with debris from the ship. The Jupiter had a 120-member crew, and the 415 children were accompanied by 60

teachers and aides.

"The Italian ship tore a huge hole below the waterline, almost splitting the Jupiter in two ... no wonder it sank in less than an hour," Mavrikis said.

Rescue

Mavrikis said the cruise organiser, schools abroad of Haywards Heath in England's Sussex county, had chartered two planes to take the group home today.

The two dead seamen, Vassilis Pomas and Athanasios Golemotis, were crushed to death as they tried to attach tugboat cables in the rescue operation, Mavrikis said.

British Ambassador Sir Jeremy Thomas praised the "skill and courage of all those involved in the rescue attempt ... the Greek rescue services and all those in charge of the children."

"I would also like to pay tribute to the British schoolchildren for their calmness and their courage. They were an example to us all," he said in a statement.

Merchant Marine Minister Evangelos Yannopoulos said in a statement that the Italian freighter was to blame and that its skipper, Capt. Flavio Carmine, was being held on manslaughter charges.

Screaming

Some of the children spoke of the moment of collision in detail.

"The lights went out, and the ship went off to one side ... the girls were screaming and crying, and we couldn't see anything properly. It was very frightening," said Stephanie Stavrou, 16.

At least 64 people, including 30 pupils, were injured when the Adige container ship collided with the Jupiter at dusk.

All the rescued were initially taken to hospital, but the Merchant Marine Ministry officials, who declined to be named in accordance with Greek practice, said two adults — one with a fractured collarbone, the other with abdominal injuries — were the only passengers still hospitalised today.

The teenagers from 13 schools across England were starting an eight-day educational cruise in the Mediterranean with stopovers at the Greek islands and at ports in Egypt, Israel and Turkey.

US welcomes Kremlin move on Sakharov

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22, (AP): The US State Department yesterday welcomed the decision of Soviet authorities to allow dissident leader Andrei Sakharov to visit the United States, and urged Moscow to give the same permission to all Soviets wishing to travel abroad.

Spokesman Charles Redman said Sakharov will be travelling

in his capacity as a trustee of the newly formed International Foundation for the Survival and Development of Humanity. He has never travelled to a foreign country before.

While welcoming the decision concerning Sakharov, a physicist who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1975 for his human rights

activities, Redman criticised the Soviets for refusing exit visas for others.

"Soviet use of alleged knowledge of state secrets to deny many other Soviet citizens in right to travel abroad is deplorable and inconsistent with Soviet commitments under the Helsinki accords," Redman said.



British passengers being ferried to shore after their Greek cruise ship collided with an Italian freighter outside the port of Piraeus near Athens. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hurricane Joan slams into Nicaraguan coastal town

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Oct. 22, (AP): Hurricane Joan hit the Nicaraguan coastal town of Bluefields today with 125 mile (200 kilometre) per hour winds and blinding rain, tearing off roofs, causing blackouts and forcing residents to flee in fear of floods and mudslides.

Nearly 1,000 people were evacuated in the nearly morning darkness after floodwaters threatened to engulf a Bluefields neighbourhood, state radio Voice of Nicaragua reported.

Joan smashed houses and cut electricity and telephone service in the city, but no casualties were reported early today.

Precautionary evacuations began in Managua as the storm swept inland, according to a newspaper report, while two towns in Costa Rica suffered severe flooding, officials there said.

Joan late yesterday struck

Nicaragua's Great Corn island, state radio reported. Despite damage to structures, there were no immediate reports of casualties on the island, 45 miles (72 kilometres) from Bluefields.

Downpours

Heavy winds and rain knocked out power in Rama, 62 miles (100 kilometres) west of Bluefields, and strong downpours were reported in central Chontales and southern Rio San Juan provinces.

Forecasters with the US National Hurricane Centre in Coral Gables, Florida, said the storm, travelling west at 10 miles (16 kilometres) per hour, was expected to weaken considerably as it continued passing over land.

Flash flood and mudslide warnings were issued for all of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, western Panama and eastern Honduras. Forecasters predicted more than 15 inches (38 centimetres) of rain

would inundate those areas by Sunday.

Waves of 10 to 15 feet (three to five metres) were expected near the hurricane's centre and heavy waves were reported early today on the Caribbean coasts of Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

Effective

At least 52,000 people evacuated the coasts of Nicaragua and Costa Rica as Joan's centre headed over Bluefields, 180 miles (290 kilometres) east of Managua on the remote Miskito coast.

"The danger is effective and real. There exists a great danger of loss of life in the city of Bluefields," Information Minister Manuel Espinoza said last night.

The storm already has left at least 26 dead and tens of thousands homeless in Colombia and Venezuela.

Scientists report success in moving trapped whales

BARROW, Alaska, Oct. 22, (Reuters): Scientists reported their first significant success in efforts to guide three whales from an icy prison towards the open sea, as offers of help came from around the world.

The California grey whales, the largest measuring nearly 40 feet (12 metres), have been trapped for about two weeks beneath thick ice near this Eskimo village on the north slope of Alaska.

However, at a late yesterday news conference, scientists said they had completed digging 24 holes, each about 20 feet long (six metres), in a string away from shore, towards unfrozen waters.

"The whales are running up and down the holes. They're using them all," said Ron Morris, a fisheries biologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The three whales, he said, were swimming the entire length of the two dozen holes, surfacing every few minutes to breathe. To force the whales away from the shoreline, the scientists are let-

ting the holes closest to shore freeze over and digging new ones towards the open ocean.

Viewed from the air, the string of square holes stretches in a slightly crooked line across the snow-covered ice, resembling the dotted lines down the centre of a highway.

Morris said Eskimo workers were labouring around the clock in sub-zero temperatures and had greatly speeded up their digging of the breathing holes. The holes, cut with chainsaws and kept open with small devices that agitate the water, are spaced about 25 feet (eight metres) apart.

At the same time, an Alaska National Guard helicopter is using a seven-ton block of concrete on the end of a cable to break holes about five miles (eight km) away. Those holes are being punched in the ice towards those where the whales are swimming back and forth.

This has never been attempted before.

Dukakis seeks to arouse black enthusiasm

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22, (Reuters): In a bid to overtake George Bush's lead in the polls, Democratic presidential nominee Michael Dukakis made a rare appearance before inner city blacks to try to stir up enthusiasm for his campaign.

The Massachusetts governor ventured to a Harlem church in New York yesterday and told a mostly black audience that he was his best bet in the Nov 8 election to uphold civil rights laws, fight drugs and extend prosperity.

"I need your help," said Dukakis, who is trailing his Republican rival in popular vote polls by between seven and 17 points.

"The difference between George Bush and me is very simple," he said. "He wants to help people who already have made it. I want to help every American make it. He's on their side, I'm on yours."

Surveys

Blacks accounted for about 20 per cent of the 1984 Democratic presidential votes, but a number of surveys have shown that limited enthusiasm for Dukakis in the black community is hurting his White House prospects.

Dukakis, who defeated black rights leader Jesse Jackson for the Democratic presidential nomination but now has his active support, was interrupted by applause several dozen times as he delivered a gospel-style speech.

Dukakis later reached out to blue collar workers in the traditionally Democratic steel town of McKeesport, Pennsylvania, telling them he would help save the steel industry by negotiating agreements with other countries to reduce the flow of foreign steel into the United States.

"Don't let anybody tell you that the steel industry is dead in this country," he said. "It isn't. It's not going to be. We're going to build it back."

Censure

Bush spent the day stressing his foreign policy experience by mapping out a plan to abolish chemical weapons.

In a speech in Toledo, Ohio, he proposed the censure of nations using chemical weapons and creation of a formal group to control the transfer of chemical technology and weapons.

"I want to be known as the president who, working with our allies, the Soviets and others, led to the elimination of chemical warfare and chemical weapons," Bush said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lord Callaghan

LONDON, Oct. 22, (Reuters): Former Labour Prime Minister Lord Callaghan, 76, has left hospital where he was admitted after collapsing on Thursday.

Hospital officials said he was released yesterday after doctors kept him under observation and found nothing wrong.

Callaghan had felt faint after giving a reading at a memorial service in London for a former leader of both the House of Commons and Lords.

Last June he underwent tests after suffering a mild stroke.

Papandreou

LONDON, Oct. 22, (AP): Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, looking fit and well after major heart surgery, flew to Athens today promising a full investigation into a ship collision near the port of Piraeus.

The 69-year-old prime minister left Heathrow airport on an Olympic Airways flight with his 34-year-old girlfriend, Dimitra Liani, nearly two months after he arrived in Britain but just three weeks after his operation.

Two accidents

BARCELONA, Spain, Oct. 22, (UPI): Eleven retired vacationers and two West German tourists died in separate bus crashes on a northern highway today, authorities said.

Sixty-four people were injured in the two accidents, which occurred six hours apart on the northern stretch of a coastal highway that links southern Spain with France.

Anti-drug bill

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22, (UPI): The historic 100th Congress adjourned early today, passing an anti-drug bill that allows the execution of drug lords, hits users with up to \$10,000 in fines and creates a cabinet-level drug czar.

The election-year bill sailed through the House of Representatives in a 346-11 vote and by voice vote in the Senate.

Heroin seized

SYDNEY, Oct. 22, (AP): Police today said they had made the largest seizure of heroin in Australia's history after smashing an international drug ring operating from Hong Kong.

A total of 21 people were arrested here and in Hong Kong following the seizure of 43.5 kilograms (96 pounds) of high-grade Thai heroin, with an estimated street value of \$50 million.

Cancer surgery

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22, (AP): Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor underwent surgery yesterday for breast cancer and is expected to make a "total recovery" and be back on the bench by the end of the month, a court spokeswoman said.

Spokeswoman Toni House said the cancer was discovered "in a very early form."

King Hussein, Mubarak and Arafat hold surprise talks

(Continued from Page 1)

new page in Jordan's relations with the PLO," said Jamal Al Sha'er, head of the Democratic Unionist Association of Jordan, a nationalist group.

Sha'er said he believed Jordan had gone too far in breaking ties with the West Bank. "We had hoped the political aspects would have been left to the PLO and Jordan would continue to shoulder legal and administrative responsibilities," he said.

Rami Khoury, editor of the English-language Jordan Times, commented: "There needs to be high-level Jordan-PLO consultation, especially to gather pan-Arab support for whatever new position the PNC adopts."

A PLO source said: "We are happy because it is very important for Jordan and the PLO to work together. The PNC said our future relations should be based on co-operation."

"This is a good step because it brings Jordan back to the picture," Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Alon Liel said of the meeting. "He (Arafat) needs Jordan as a partner. He needs the full co-operation and the full backing of Jordan."

Soviet leader to visit India

NEW DELHI, Oct. 22, (Reuters): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will make a three-day visit to India from Nov 18 to 21, his second in two years, official sources said today.

Gorbachev, elevated to the presidency in September, last visited India in November, 1986. The sources said Gorbachev will hold at least two sessions of talks with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

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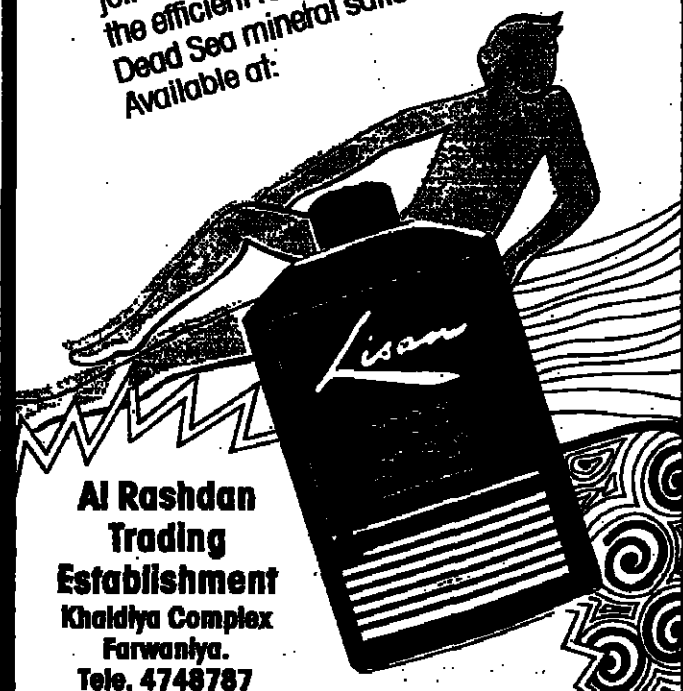
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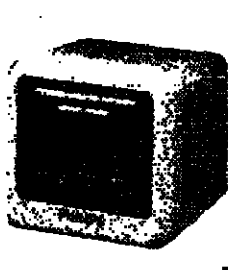
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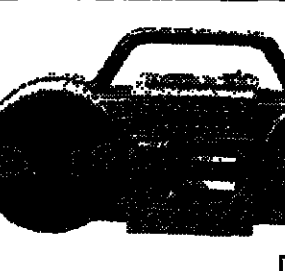
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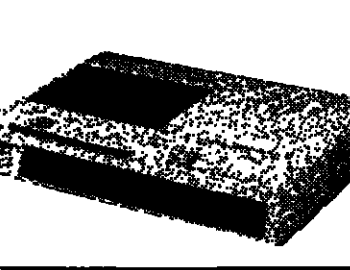
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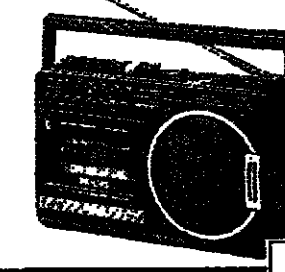
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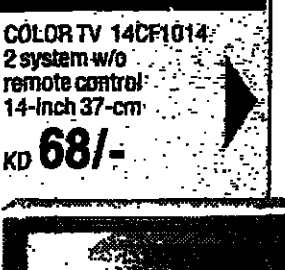
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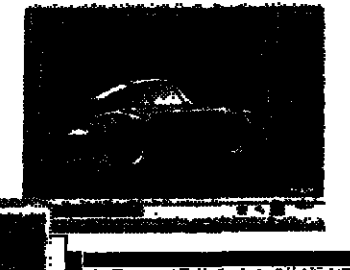
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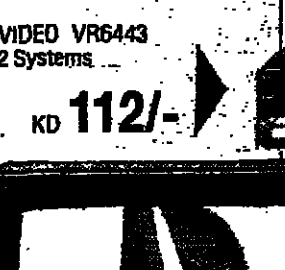
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Zahir Shah urged to join government

NEW YORK, Oct. 22. (Reuter): A United Nations official trying to bring about a political settlement in Afghanistan has appealed to exiled King Zahir Shah to help form a government. The New York Times reported today.

"The time has come for the king to step forward and give a lead to the process of national reconciliation called for in the Geneva accords that provided for Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan," Diego Cordovez said in an interview.

Cordovez, who is UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's representative for Afghanistan, said he had sent a message to the king to that effect last week.

The 73-year-old king has lived in Rome since his overthrow in 1973. He ruled Afghanistan for 40 years.

In Rome his spokesman, General Abdul Wali, said it is the king's practice not to comment on his diplomatic contacts and there would be no immediate reaction to Cordovez's remarks.

But he said the king was willing to take any role if the principles of consensus and self-determina-

tion were observed. Cordovez, who admitted a deadlock in his efforts to promote a political settlement in Afghanistan, also urged three exiled politicians to help form a "broad-based coalition government" by the time the Soviet withdrawal is completed.

The three are former Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Samad Hamid, now living in West Germany, former Minister of Justice Abdul Satar Sirat, in exile in Saudi Arabia and Abdul Wakil, a former minister of agriculture who lives in Pakistan.

If the Afghans do not agree on political reconciliation by the time the last Soviet soldiers leave, "we may see chaos and complete civil war," Cordovez said.

Meanwhile, two Afghans were sentenced to death by a Kabul court for planting a bomb which killed 14 people and injured more than 30 in the Afghan capital last month, the Soviet news agency Tass reported.

The Soviet agency said two other "terrorists" received lengthy prison terms for their part in the Sept. 11 attack outside the state-owned trading company Afghan Kart.

UN agency to fly food relief to S. Sudan

NAIROBI, Oct. 22. (Reuter): The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) will start airlifting 1,000 tonnes of urgently needed food into southern Sudan on Sunday despite rebel threats to shoot down relief aircraft, a senior WFP official said.

Nils Enqvist, the WFP's representative in Kenya, said today the supplies would be flown from the Ugandan town of Entebbe to Juba on a chartered C-130 Hercules, carrying 20 tonnes of food on two or three flights a day.

Threat

Enqvist said the Hercules would have to run the gauntlet of rebel gunners on Jebel Lado, a hill two or three km north of Juba airport, which the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) captured last month.

Rebel fire from Jebel Lado has damaged several aircraft flying into Juba recently and Enqvist

said the SPLA had threatened to shoot the Hercules out of the sky.

"They are quite happy to tell us that they are going to shoot at us. They said in a radio announcement that they are going to shoot us down," he told Reuters.

The SPLA, which has been fighting a civil war in the south for five years, has accused the WFP of supplying government troops.

Enqvist said more than 50,000 people displaced by the war had taken refuge in Juba where food was fast running out.

"This is a humanitarian airlift which is only going to bring food to the suffering displaced people in Juba," he said.

Relief agencies have turned to air transport to supply the besieged town because convoys of food trucks moving overland from Uganda and Zaire have been repeatedly attacked by SPLA guerrillas and several drivers killed.

159 killed in Algerian riots

ALGIERS, Oct. 22. (AP): The bloody riots that swept Algeria during the first half of this month left 159 people dead and 154 others injured, according to official figures released by the Interior Ministry.

The estimate was lower than that released previously by the Information Ministry, which reported 176 dead. The information ministry said at the time that this figure was probably lower than the actual number of people killed in the uprising that began Oct. 4.

Unofficial estimates by medical workers during the uprising put the number of dead at between 400 and 500, with more than 1,000 injured. Most of the

deaths reportedly resulted from troops firing into crowds of demonstrators.

No explanation was given by the Interior Ministry for the difference in death estimates.

The unrest, spurred by Algeria's economic crisis, began with demonstrators protesting food shortages and rising prices and demanding an end to President Chadli Benjedid's austerity programme.

Algeria, whose economy is run on a strict, Soviet-style centrally directed system, has been hurt by the crash of oil prices. More than 95 per cent of the North African country's exports come from oil and gas.

Marcos vows to fight US racketeering charges

NEW YORK, Oct. 22. (Reuter): Ousted Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, who still dreams of returning to his homeland, now must fight to stay out of an American jail.

Marcos, 71, and his wife Imelda were charged yesterday in a \$268 million racketeering scheme alleged to have started when he was the authoritarian ruler of the Philippines and continued into his American exile.

The Marcoses were accused of looting the Philippine treasury of \$103 million and defrauding US banks of \$165 million.

Saudi arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi was accused of aiding the couple in trying to conceal the scheme. He said through his lawyers that he had done nothing wrong.

"They used the Philippine treasury as if it was their personal treasure," New York FBI chief James Fox said of the Marcoses as the indictments were unsealed in New York federal court.

In Honolulu, Marcos' attorney Richard Hibe said Marcos would fight the charges, but wondered whether the 71-year-old

political exile had the physical stamina to "withstand the rigours of a criminal trial of this scope and magnitude."

Hibe said Marcos had refused a "drop dead" deal by the US government which would have required him and his wife to plead guilty to racketeering charges and give evidence against others with no assurance that they would not be put in jail.

"Marcos offered to enter into meaningful negotiations with the US and Philippine governments," Hibe said. He would not give any details on what Marcos wanted to discuss.

Deterrent

The indictment said the Marcoses, who once hobnobbed with the world's rich and famous and claimed American presidents as friends, used their stolen Philippine pesos to secretly fund the purchase of four Manhattan office buildings.

Khashoggi was said in the indictments to have agreed to act as a front, pretending he bought the office towers before the Philippines government sued to get them.

The Marcoses must plead in New York federal court on Oct. 31. If convicted they face up to 20 years in jail on the charges against them.

Meanwhile, President Corason Aquino today called a US court indictment of Marcos a "powerful deterrent" to rulers who think they are above the law.

In a statement, Aquino praised the US action, saying efforts by foreign countries to investigate "the crimes of the Marcoses will lead to the early recovery of stolen assets that rightfully belong to the Filipino people."

"The fact that the Marcoses are being brought to justice will serve as a powerful deterrent to all those who believe themselves above the law and those who would abuse the public trust for private gain," Aquino said.

Manila officials had accused Marcos and his associates of plundering up to \$10 billion from the economy during his 20-year rule which ended in 1986 when he was overthrown by popular revolt and former housewife Aquino became head of state.

Khmer Rouge ready to accept international peacekeepers

BANGKOK, Oct. 22. (UPI): The militarily powerful Khmer Rouge guerrilla group today said it is prepared to accept an international peacekeeping force as part of an agreement to end the nine-year-old Kampuchean conflict.

"As measures to guarantee the agreement and Kampuchea's independence, neutrality and territorial integrity, an international committee of the United Nations or some other international committee, and an international peacekeeping force should be instituted," Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan said in a statement.

The statement, broadcast by the Khmer Rouge Radio, eliminated a major difference between Khieu Samphan and coalition resistance partners Prince Norodom Sihanouk and former

Prime Minister Son Sann.

Both Sihanouk and Son Sann have said an international peacekeeping force would be useful to ensure that the Khmer Rouge, with the largest fighting force of the three resistance groups, does not use its military superiority to grab power on its own.

Vietnam and its puppet government in Phnom Penh have rejected the concept of a peacekeeping force, saying it would amount to foreign interference in Kampuchea's internal affairs.

Clarification

Hanoi and Phnom Penh have said they would accept an international control commission to oversee a peace agreement, but not a foreign armed force.

The Khmer Rouge termed its new stand a "clarification" of a peace plan issued on Aug. 15. That plan acknowledged appre-

hensions of a Khmer Rouge return to sole power and agreed that measures should be taken to prevent it.

During its rule from 1975 to 1979, the Khmer Rouge pursued radical communist, isolationist policies and brutal internal purges that are believed to have led to the deaths of more than one million Kampuchean.

The Khmer Rouge was ousted in a Vietnamese invasion that seized the capital on Jan. 7, 1979. A new regime was set up with Vietnamese and Soviet backing and guidance.

The Khmer Rouge and the followers of Sihanouk and Son Sann joined forces in a coalition that has led a guerrilla war to force Vietnam from the country. All parties involved have been engaged in talks to seek a political solution to the conflict.

Death of Hirohito could prompt suicides

TOKYO, Oct. 22. (Reuter): The death of Emperor Hirohito, now gravely ill in his palace, could prompt the suicide of some Japanese who identify totally with the man who has reigned over them for 62 years, some academics say.

Younger Japanese have mixed feelings about the emperor's role, but his death will profoundly affect many elderly people who grew up believing that he is a living god.

"Some people may commit suicide after the emperor dies as happened in 1912 when the Meiji Emperor (Hirohito's grandfather) passed away," said Masayuki Suzuki, professor of Japanese history at Kobe University.

A social psychologist at a Tokyo university, said that despite Hirohito's renunciation of any claim to divinity after World War Two some Japanese still believed him to be a god.

Reverence

Many elderly Japanese, conditioned by childhood teaching, have a profound reverence for the 87-year-old emperor even if they do not believe him to be divine.

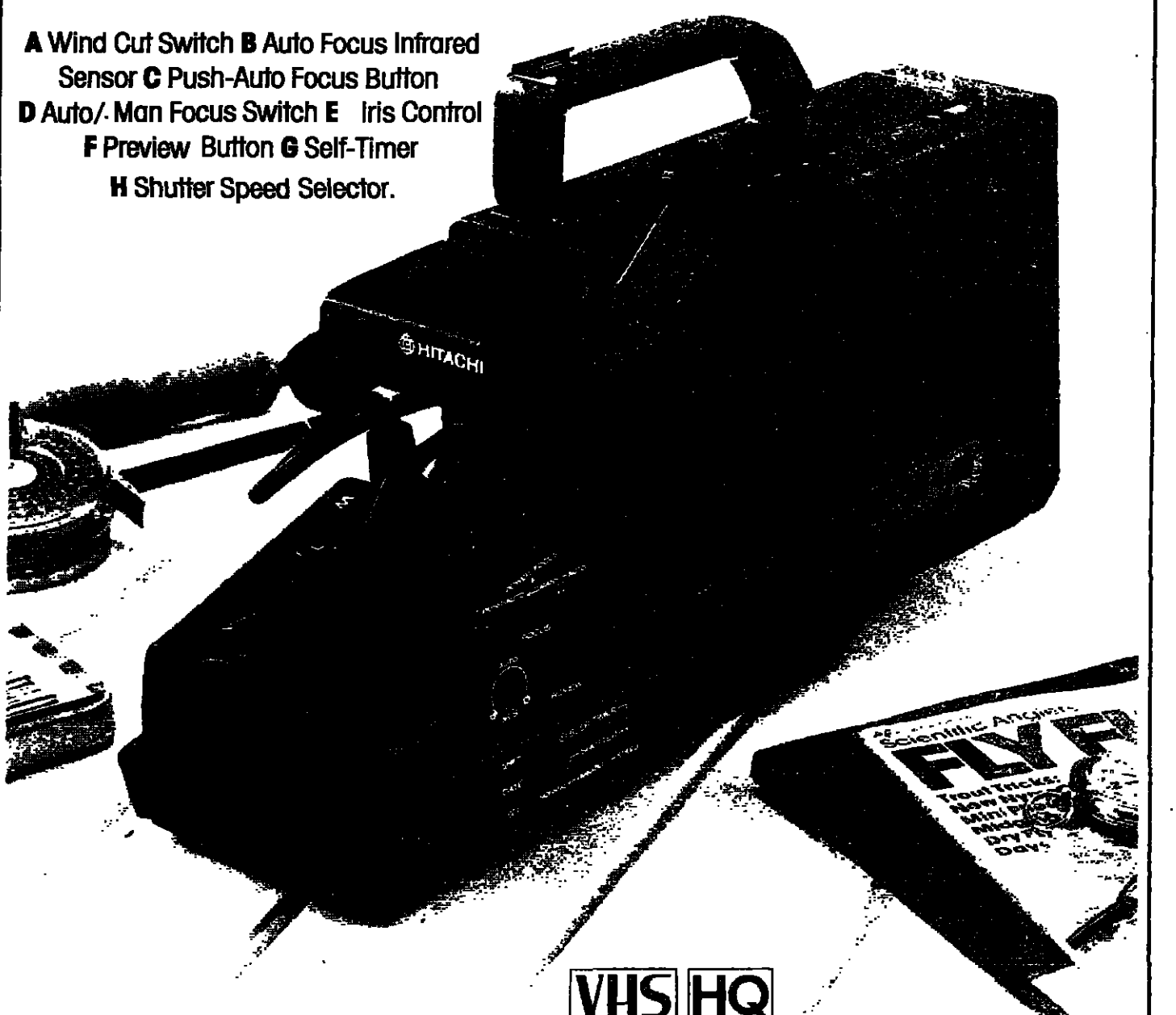
"Mob psychology is operating on those well-wishers, political commentators Hideaki Kase said.

He also said some Japanese could kill themselves on hearing of the emperor's death, particularly those burdened with personal problems who might find this an opportune time to end their lives in a manner that accorded with deep-rooted Japanese tradition.

"Some Japanese, especially those over 50 years, regard the emperor with awe, having shared joys and sorrows with him," according to the historian Suzuki. "The older they are, the stronger their reverence for the emperor." Among the Japanese sharing the death watch at the gates of the Imperial Palace last week was just such a man, an 85-year-old former soldier who would not give his name.

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West German official visits Saudi Arabia

RIYADH, Oct. 22. (KUNA): West German Education and Science Minister Jürgen Molleman, who is currently visiting Saudi Arabia, today met with the Amir of Riyadh region Prince Salman Bin Adel Aziz.

Molleman, who arrived here yesterday on a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia, reviewed with Prince Salman a number of issues of mutual interest, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

Before coming to Saudi Arabia, the West German official paid a visit to the Yemen Arab Republic, during which he conferred with Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and senior Yemeni officials.

Death rate in Kuwait drops

THE head of the Health and Bio-Statistics Division at the Ministry of Public Health, Dr. Kamel Al Saleh, has announced that the death rate in Kuwait dropped from 33.3 per thousand in 1983 to 27.7 per thousand in 1987.

Speaking to a local daily, he said that death rate among expatriates had significantly decreased. It registered 24.3 per cent in 1983 compared to 18.2 per cent in 1987.

The decrease among Kuwaitis dropped by 10.6 per cent. It registered 47.3 per cent in 1983 dropping to 42.3 per cent in 1988.

The upgrading of hospital services both in the private and public sectors and the decrease in deaths due to traffic accidents from 9 per cent in 1983 to 8.1 per cent in 1987 contributed to the drop in the death rate, the official said.

He added that the infant mortality rate also decreased from 19 per thousand in 1983 to 17.4 per thousand in 1987. This can be attributed to fewer fatal infections, improved childcare techniques and greater awareness of child care on the part of parents, the official added.

Kuwait reiterates support of UN disarmament role

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 22. (KUNA): Kuwait has reiterated its full support of the UN's vital role in disarmament and pledged to boost any international endeavour to ban chemical and biological weapons and to put an end to nuclear and conventional arms race.

"Kuwait is very keen to exert every possible effort in the interest of this vital objective and this keenness was reflected in the address of HH the Amir of Kuwait before the General Assembly in its 43rd session when he saluted the American and Soviet people on the pioneer steps taken by their leaders towards reducing the arsenal of nuclear weapons," Kuwait's permanent representative to the UN Mohammed Abdullah Abulhas-

san told the UN's special committee on disarmament.

Abulhasan said the recent improvement in Soviet-American relations, which resulted in the signing of an agreement on the elimination of medium-range nuclear missiles, had created an encouraging atmosphere for world efforts in this connection.

Abulhasan stressed the need for maintaining nuclear-free zones in different parts of the world and urged the international community to refrain from any kind of nuclear co-operation with the racist regimes of Tel Aviv and Pretoria.

"The world community has been assured during the past years that the resort of the allied racist regimes in South Africa

and the Zionist entity to military force was meant to continue occupation. Their fear of the inevitable end of their inhuman practices had prompted them to acquire nuclear weapons as a tool of terroristic and aggressive policies," he explained.

"The last series in this illegal nuclear drive was the Israeli launching of a space satellite by which it moved the arms race which imposed on the Middle East to the airspace," Abulhasan said.

Abulhasan called on the committee to work towards preventing a space arms race.

"We side with the international community in its demand for signing of agreements to curb such arms race," he said.

End of this year will be final deadline to obtain ID cards: official

MORE than 1,900,000 citizens and expatriates have so far received their ID cards, according to Faisal Al Shaiji, the director-general of the Public Authority for Civil Information.

Speaking to a local daily, Al Shaiji said that the Authority has given grace periods for completing formalities on a number of occasions to avoid legal action under the Civil Information Code Act No. 22 of 1982. The end of this year will be the final deadline for those who have yet to obtain ID cards, he said.

Crowding
Those turning 18 years of age by the end of this year will face legal action if they did not apply for an ID card. The penalty could be in the form of a fine not exceeding KD10, the official said.

The Authority is currently involved in a study aimed at developing the existing format of the ID card and results will be

revealed soon.

A cabinet decision will be issued early next year binding all government authorities to accept the ID card as an official document for personal identification.

Service

The Authority is planning to open new offices in the governorates of Ahmadi and Jahra to facilitate the processing of ID card applications which would reduce seasonal crowding caused by shortage in staff. Additionally, a new office is to be opened in Farwaniya and the existing office in Farwaniya will soon be reoperated as a central office for the delivery of ID cards, the official said.

He said that some 2,000 cards are handed over to applicants daily and that the main problem facing the Authority is the failure of applicants to collect their

cards on time or to have their expired ones renewed.

Meanwhile, Al Shaiji revealed that a new public service is to be introduced whereby people who have lost important documents can apply to the Authority's information bank to obtain copies. The documents will relate to passports, rental or marriage contracts.

The Authority maintains updated records of the population by registering births and deaths and by cancelling the names of those who have left the country upon the expiry of their work permits, the official added.

Ministry seeks to increase non-oil revenue

THE finance and industry undersecretary and director-general of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development, Nasser Al Nwais, said that the ministry is preparing studies to increase non-oil revenue to cover the budget deficit.

On completion the study will be forwarded to the cabinet for their directives.

In an interview with the Dubai-based daily Al Bayan, the official pointed out that the government has not resorted to issuing any treasury bills nor did it approach the local market to overcome the deficit in the budget.

The decline in oil prices and current market conditions will not be conducive to increase in spending, he said. The 1988 budget will be similar to last year's budget and the current deficit will also be the same as in 1987, the official said.

Publishing the budget for 1989 at an early stage will strongly link the stability of the oil market and will assist in making accurate estimates of spending.

The Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development does not suffer from any financial liquidity crises as its outstanding loans given to other countries are being returned to the state, Al Nwais added.

Amir's proposal explained to UN committee

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 22. (KUNA): The Kuwaiti mission to the United Nations has explained HH the Amir's initiative on settling the international debts crisis to the second committee of the General Assembly's 43rd session.

Member of the Kuwaiti mission, Mohammed Saad Al Sallal, told committee members last night that the developing nations' foreign debts was an acute international crisis.

He added that the crisis threatens the entire international monetary system and needs a deep-rooted political settlement that takes into consideration the humanitarian, social and economic factors of the problem.

The Kuwaiti diplomat said international understanding of dimensions of the problem, which has halted the development process in many developing countries, has grown by its inclusion on the agenda of the current UN session.

Assistance
Kuwait, Sallal said, has since its independence paid due attention to those countries' development problems.

Over the past 30 years, Kuwait has extended assistance and soft loans to those countries and was among the pioneering creditor nations that have pointed out the destructive repercussions of foreign debts on the economic and social structure of the developing nations, Sallal went on.

Kuwait has called, in this con-

text, for an end to commercial protectionist measures against the exports of the developing nations, he told the committee.

HH the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad launched his initiative in an address before the General Assembly last September 28, Sallal recalled.

Reconsider
He explained that the Amir's initiative outlines a clearcut method of solving the problem based on three articles.

First, calling the creditor nations to a meeting to discuss cancelling the repayment of interest on the debts of developing countries and dropping part of the debts of the poorer countries. Kuwait as a creditor country is ready to attend such a meeting and abide by its decisions.

Second, asking the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to reconsider their stiff measures on aid-seeking countries and impose more flexible conditions.

Third, increasing and organising the north's scientific and technical assistance to the south and co-operating in the maintenance of natural and human resources, fighting pollution and bolstering development projects.

The Kuwaiti official concluded by hoping that the current General Assembly session would push forward global efforts to explore new horizons for the settlement of the developing countries' foreign debts, and thus pave the way to a better and more just future for their peoples.

Ministries to improve administrative performance

THE Ministers of Public Works, Social Affairs and Labour, Communications and the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs have informed a local daily that implementation of HH the Amir's wish for better administrative performance is the prime concern of their ministries.

Abdul Rahman Al Houti, the Minister of Public Works said that he has given instructions to develop the existing performance level at his ministry and to improve the quality of services performed by the ministry around the country.

He pointed out that this will result in stepping up productivity, upgrading performance level, reducing costs and meeting public needs for public and private facilities, services and buildings.

He described the Amir's wish to develop functional levels at various government organisations as a true reflection of the deep concern the country's top political leadership is paying to the needs of citizens.

Remedy
The Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser said that the Amir's wish to develop the functional level was a clear indication of top level follow-up of various developments at the international level meant to

improve performance and services.

The Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammad Al Rifai described the Amir's wish as a commitment to remedy existing problems and upgrade government services.

The Minister of Communications Abdullah Al Sharhan said that the directives of HH the Amir will help eliminate existing problems and enhance the well-being of citizens and expatriates.

Education officials meet

KUWAIT'S Minister of Education Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri presided over a meeting of undersecretaries and directors of educational areas of the ministry last week.

The meeting was attended by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education Abdul Rahman Al Khudari.

Comments by Al Nouri during his visits to some schools were discussed at the meeting. The minister's visits were aimed at studying the needs of the schools.

Al Nouri called for stopping the practice of transferring teachers from one school to another during the academic year, except in special circumstances.

BAHRAIN DIGEST

New industrial projects sought

OFFICIALS from the Ministry of Development will be visiting Britain this week in a bid to attract new industrial projects to Bahrain. Sheikh Hamood bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, head of the ministry's industrial promotion unit, and adviser Michael Foley, will give a presentation to members of the Middle East Association in London on Oct. 26.

They will be highlighting what the island has to offer British industrialists, including low-cost energy and tax and customs incentives.

The Middle East Association comprises businessmen already trading with Arab countries.

During their trip, the ministry officials will be having talks with British companies which have expressed an interest in setting up joint ventures on the island, said a spokesman.

The Development Ministry has already given a similar presentation in Sweden.

Prophet's birthday celebrated

THE Bangladesh community in Bahrain celebrated the Prophet's birthday yesterday at the Bangladesh embassy premises.

Charge d'Affaires Abdul Ma'ou Choudry, First Secretary Nurul Bashir and some Bangladeshi professors from the Arabian Gulf University were among the 400 people who attended the celebration.

A "Millat Sharif" was performed to honour the Prophet. Later "Millat Mehfil" and "Nabi Pa" competitions were held which featured discussions and recitations from the Holy Quran on the life and work of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). A "Qaraiti" recital competition was also held for the children.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Association has raised more than BD 2,500 for the flood victims in Bangladesh, according to Abdus Samad Bhuiyan, president of the association.

Self-sufficiency in technicians

BAHRAIN'S food and water control laboratory is to become self-sufficient shortly, with the arrival of more trained Bahraini technicians.

Three Bahraini employees at the laboratory, attached to the Public Health Directorate, will return in December after a four-month training course in India.

Bader Al Hassan, head of the laboratory, said the three Bahraini food analysts were currently attending a course in food chemistry at the Central Food Technological Research Institute in Mysore.

Two Bahraini technicians have already completed a masters degree course in food science from a London institute.

The training programme is supported by the UN Development Programme and Agtund, the Arab Gulf programme for UN development organisations.

"With eight highly-qualified technicians, the laboratory, which is already well-equipped, will be self-sufficient shortly. We are now able to do almost all types of food and water analysis including that of oil and metal samples," said Al Hassan.

The laboratory is also able to carry out complicated analysis to meet the requirements of Bahrain's food hygienists, he added.

'Falcon squadron'

BAHRAIN airport chiefs have a 'secret weapon' to scare away flocks of seabirds from the runway.

If feathered intruders look like causing a hazard to aircraft, the 'falcon squadron' goes into action.

It's not that Bahrain's traditional hunting bird is let loose on the flocks, but airport officials have found the recorded sound of the falcon's cry played over loudspeakers is enough to put the 'unwelcome visitors' to flight.

Sheikh Hamad bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Civil Aviation Directorate assistant undersecretary, said: "It is not a serious problem in Bahrain, because we don't have large grassed areas at the airport. We use the system when seabirds from Arad Bay settle on the runway sometimes at low tide."

Live falcons are used to chase birds from the airfield at RAF Benson in Oxfordshire, England, which is the home of the Queen's Flight.

Bird strike incidents have been considerably reduced since the special unit was set up in 1985, according to a report in the Rolls-Royce magazine.

Locusts may come to Kuwait

LOCUST swarms invading Saudi Arabia may come to Kuwait and other Gulf states, warned Dr Abbas Kisaiba, director of the technical department at the International Fund of Agricultural Development (IFAD).

During a recent visit to Kuwait, he said that IFAD is ready to finance and supervise the fight against locusts in the GCC states. The plan is to eradicate these pests at source to avoid using chemicals and insecticides on vegetation which is harmful both to plants and humans.

The official added that IFAD is ready to finance the establishment of a network to produce dates in the Gulf states.

Speaking at an agricultural seminar in Kuwait, he said that IFAD supplied the Kuwaiti Farmers Union with seeds of wheat and barley which are capable of resisting dryness.

A IFAD delegation will visit Oman to determine agricultural problems and agricultural projects that can be executed there.

The fund also helped the UAE reorganise its Water Wealth Research Centre at Umm Al Qiwain.

The GCC states should plant and cultivate products which are economically feasible rather than try to meet local need of different vegetables and fruits which can be very expensive to grow, the official said.

An in-depth study on available resources, especially water resources should be undertaken to optimise their use and conservation, Kisaiba added.

He said that the increase of agricultural imports into Arab states is due to the absence of political decisions and will to ensure that Arab agricultural production will meet demands and avoid imports.

Restaurant complex opens



Janil Al Sultan of the Sultan Center restaurants, greets US Ambassador to Kuwait W. Nathaniel Howell.

THE Sultan Center has opened its four-in-one restaurant complex at the waterfront.

The complex houses four restaurants with a combined seating capacity of 613 and is open from 6 am until midnight seven days a week. The complex includes an outdoor

Japanese ships to dock again at Kharg Island

TOKYO, Oct. 22. (KUNA): A liaison authority between the Japanese workers and ship owners on Thursday said it has reached an agreement with the General Federation of Japanese Sailors to reduce restrictions on Japanese vessels across the Arabian Gulf.

Officials said the agreement enables Japanese ships to dock at Kharg Island, Iran's main oil exporting port.

The agreement will go into effect on Tuesday. The first ship to head towards the Iranian island is expected to sail the same day for the first time since 1984.

Officials added that the agreement also allows Japanese ships to sail at night in the Strait of Hormuz at longitude 55 to the east of Friday.

The Japanese move was prompted by Iran's acceptance of UN Resolution 598 on ending the eight-year old Gulf war.

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Workers accuse company of illegal practices

A PRIVATE local company is accused of illegal practices against its staff.

Accusations range from long working hours without overtime compensation, forced attempts to make staff sign revised versions of employment contracts, and threats to terminate staff who do not comply with unreasonable assignments.

Al Aamel magazine, (The Worker), the organ of the Kuwaiti Workers Union, interviewed workers employed by the local transport company.

An Indian driver said that the company hired him as a driver for KD85 and company's accommodations.

Recently, he had his ID card withdrawn along with those of his colleagues who refused to sign new contract forms. These new contracts were illegal because they deprived them of their rights by making them work extra hours over and above those stipulated in the original contract.

Though he and his colleagues were supposed to work for eight hours, they worked 12 and were paid overtime for only two

hours, he said.

One clause of the illegally revised contract stressed that the employer without advance notice or warning could terminate the services of staff who declined to work longer hours if ordered to do so.

Another worker at the company complained that he was paid KD85 per month as per his contract. However, now the company wanted him to sign a clause binding him to bear the cost of any damages to his vehicle during working hours.

A third worker said that ever since he took a job with the company, workers have lodged complaints with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

The company, thereupon,

threatened to deport them and would sometimes not provide simple essential living requirements at the 3x2 rooms in the Jahra bachelor town.

Three workers shared a room which often do not have connections to the air-conditioning units and other utilities, he said.

Another Pakistani worker said that they were now jobless and the company is threatening to deport them. He added that although the majority had paid large sums of money to go-betweens for obtaining an employment contract, they are now facing dire consequences.

These workers have lost everything — even their houses back home which they sold to come to Kuwait, he added.



Kuwait's Sony tape dealers recently visited Bangkok, Thailand, for a seminar on the latest technology being used by Sony in tape manufacturing. Kuwait's visiting team included Isam Tugan, (second from left), Sony sales representative for tapes; Awadh Abdul Jaleel (fourth from left) of Al-Funoon Center and Khalid Khan (right) of Citizen Company, Ltd. Supplying Store Co., Sony's sole agent in Kuwait, sponsored the trip in co-operation with Sony Corp.



A representative of Minolta conducts a service training session on the company's new photocopier at the offices of Bader Al Mulla & Minolta engineers T. Yamada and Y. Asakura recently visited photocopiers are in use.

GOING PLACES

Bangladeshis to present fairy tale

THE ghost is late. The four men, standing in the old, empty house, look at their watches. "Hub," scoffs the man named Bhupathi. "He's not coming." Suddenly the lights go out, plunging them into darkness. There's a flash of light and a ball of smoke and the ghost is there, grinning horribly. Choudhury reaches for his gun, but clumsily it goes spinning to the floor.

A scene from *Balavapur Rupkatha* — the fairy tale of Balavapur, by Bengali playwright Badal Sarkar. It opens at the Mousetrap Theatre, Kuwait, on Thursday. It is being presented by the Mousetrap group, formed by Bangladeshis.

Most of those involved in the work are professionals: engineers, doctors, teachers. They

meet every week in each other's flats to rehearse. Sound and lighting are to be laid out by the engineers among them; publicity by the art director Shah, from an advertising agency. It's a family affair: wives, if not featuring in the cast, are involved in production or costume design.

Rashid Hyder, an eye specialist doubling as a drama director, says: "It's a way of staying together and enjoying ourselves; also the Bengalis, like most people from the sub-continent are active culturally."

The 10 actors and 20 production staff expect a sell-out for all four performances, two on Thursday and two on Friday. Some of the 60,000 Bangladeshis, and many of the Bengali speaking Indians, are expected to attend.



Ejaz, Rumana and Keya: waiting for the ghost



(L-R) Rumana, Keya, Moavinul, Mahmood and Shams rehearse a scene.



WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum
DAILY: 5 pm onwards: Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Friday: 9 am onwards.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT-THURS: 8.30 am to 12.30 noon and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts; ceramics, carpets and marine equipment.

Tareq Rajab Museum
SAT-THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; FRIDAYS: 9 am to noon. Collection of Islamic art, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Sadu House
SAT-THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

THEATRE

Bengali Play
OCT 27/28: 6.30 pm, Mousetrap Theatre. The Mousetrap Group, a Bangladeshi group presents "Balavapur Rupkatha, a fairy tale. For details phone A. Karim — 2627643; Dr Hayder — 5625456.

SOCIAL

Colva Nite
OCT 27: 8.30 pm. Messilah Beach Hotel: Colva Nite with music by the Top Ranks. For details phone 2434776; 2413884; 4310913; 5629141 (after 5 pm).

Halloween Party
OCT 31: Children's Halloween pool party at Messilah Beach. Fancy dress competition, pantomime fun and pool fun games. For reservations call the hotel ext. 739/751.

Nite Flight 88
NOV 10: SAS Hotel. The Tent: 9.30 pm. Airline staff will hold a social evening with music by Juke Box Band, Stepping Stones, and the Jazz Quartet. Buffet, contest, prizes and surprises. For reservations contact Ken Winston — 5740256; John — 2435440; Tony — 2415439.

Navellim Youth Centre
NOV 17: Second social get-together at a local hotel. Music by Stepping Stones. For details ring 2407360 after 3.30 pm. Goa Cultural Association.

DEC 8: Goa Cultural Association (S.U.F.A.), will hold their annual social evening at a local Kuwait hotel.

MUSIC

David McArthur Recital
OCT 31: 8 pm. Mousetrap Theatre, Jabriya: British pianist David McArthur will give a recital as part of his third annual Gulf tour. For details contact 2469348/2441746/240-2287.

Bob Marley Night
NOV 4: SAS Tent, 7.30 to 9.30 pm: Steve Michael and The Electric Rendezvous will

be seeking to recreate the spirit of Jamaica, with a tribute to Bob Marley, the king of reggae.

EDUCATION

British Council
OCT 25-26: 5.30 pm. A talk for students with a non-British secondary education will be held at the British Council, Mansouriya. For seat reservations call 2515512.

CINEMA

Children's Film
OCT 26-27: A film for children, *Annie*, will be shown at the British Council on Oct 26, 6 pm, and Oct 27, 10.30 am. *Annie* dreams of a life outside the orphanage and Daddy Warbucks makes her dream come true. Duration: 123 minutes. Admission free but it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 2515512; 2533204.

HOTELS

At the SAS
AL BUSTAN: "Oktober Fest," until Oct 28, featuring German cuisine. Buffet includes nudel suppe mit huhn, veal kasseler and other dishes.

At the Meridien
LA BRASSERIE: Thursday's jazz session, foot tapping jazz, music by Remy D'Mello; family fun on Fridays: oriental buffet with music and video cartoons.

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Al Hambra: Sundays: Lebanese cuisine; Wednesdays: seafood night; Friday's buffet brunch. Entertainment by the Marcus Band provide live entertainment.

Hunt Room: Lunch and dinner: specialises in meat and fish dishes.

Le Tarbouche: Daily lunch and dinner buffet featuring Arab cuisine. Thursdays: Arab world specialties; Fridays: buffet lunch and dinner.

Coffee Shop: International cuisine and daily specials: ideal for casual or business meeting.

At the Ramada
LE MIRAGE NIGHT CLUB: Thursday night BBQ, full buffet, music by Al Arz, Band.

Al Bender Coffee Shop: Continental and Arabic buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner; 6 am to midnight; a la carte available.

Al Gandou Grill Garden: 7 pm to midnight, features a selection of grilled specialties.

Open Garden: 7 pm to midnight; a selection of teas, coffees, and juices; Arguilla water pipe available; videos shown on large screen every day.

Fish and Chips Shop: 4 pm to 11 pm.

Take away counter: 4 pm to 11 pm, Arabic sandwiches and snacks.

SPORTS

Boy's Own Club
OCT 23: Boy's Own Club will hold a seven-a-side one-day football festival. Interested teams can contact Millagres 3967446 or Joe D'Souza 4813622.

PBAK
OCT 23: 8 am. Picnic for all PBAK members and non-members at Messilah Beach. Games for men, women and children. Admission fee: 500 fils (adults); 250 fils (children).

NOV 4: 4 pm. Ambassador Alunan C. Glang will present awards to the winners of the first PBAK inter-commercial bowling league. Buffet dinner. Admission KD5 per person. For reservations phone Sara Macarimbang 4843447; Ofje Olor — 5634200; Cora Paras — 4897536.

BA Cricket Weekend
BA and HUBARA cricketers present the second cricket match involving ex-Test players Farokh Engineer (India) and Don Wilson (England).

OCT 23: 10.30 am: There will be a BA vs Great Britain match. Both matches will be played over 45 overs each side on the New Ground Ahmadi. Admission is free, all are welcome.

Kuwait Nomads Garden Fete
OCT 28: 12.00 — 4.00 pm Kuwait Nomads R.F.C. Garden Fete. Admission KD0.500. Lots of stalls, games and prizes to be won. Fun for all the family.

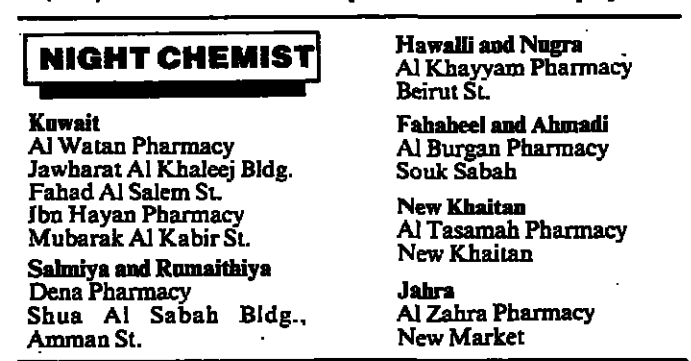
Laser Club
NOV 4: Start of the Messilah Beach Laser Club's winter racing season. Laser owners and others interested are welcome. Instruction available. For details contact D. Clark — 2425947; P. Shepherd — 5314957; 4841513; P. Berry — 3924174.

The Grand draw of Ashraf's Kodak Olympic Competition at Zahra Complex was attended by a large crowd of enthusiasts. The first prize — a Ford Mustang was won by Shahriar Rahman (centre). The second prize, a Honda Beach motor bike was won by Muhammad Ibrahim (second from left). Khalid Al Abdul Razzak, Ashraf's owner (second from right) distributed the prizes.



Bachelor on bachelors

A SECTION of the Indian community in Kuwait on Saturday celebrated Dussehra at the IAC. Funfairies. Members of IAC presented a one-act play called *Nuzuk Sawari*, the story of a confirmed bachelor trying to convince his friends not to take the plunge. The play was directed by J.R. Dassoudi, who also played a role in the 45-minute comedy. Others in the cast were Ashok Bhatia, Vipin Bhargava and Beena Sharma. Above: (L-R) Beena, Dassoudi and Bipin in a scene from the play.



NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Watan Pharmacy
Jawharat Al Khaleej Bldg.
Fahad Al Salem St.
Jbn Hayan Pharmacy
Mubarak Al Kabir St.
Al Salimiya
Wet God
Starring: Brooke Shields

Al Hambra
Dayavan (Hindi)
Starring: Vinod Khanna, Feroze Khan, Madhuri Dixit

Al Firdous
Dayavan (Hindi)
Starring: Vinod Khanna, Feroze Khan, Madhuri Dixit

Al Firdous
Dayavan (Hindi)
Starring: Vinod Khanna, Feroze Khan, Madhuri Dixit

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Dayavan (Hindi)
Starring: Vinod Khanna, Feroze Khan, Madhuri Dixit

Al Firdous
Dayavan (Hindi)
Starring: Vinod Khanna, Feroze Khan, Madhuri Dixit

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.25 Cartoon serial
10.00 Ameer Al Hasna: serial for children, starring Zahra Al Kharji, Hussein Al Mufeedi, Kawther Al Dakhil.
11.25 Ahadith Al Mauduwa: religious talk by Sheikh Salah Abu Ismael.
11.50 Rahman Al Raheem: religious programme
1.00 News Summary
1.05 Holy Quran
1.35 World News via Satellite
2.45 Cultural film
3.35 Ra'ad Al Amlaq: cartoon serial
4.25 Tum Tek and Children
4.45 Eureka
5.15 La Ilaha Illallah: historical serial. Starring: Laila Fawzi, Tayseer Fahmi, Rushwan Taufiq, Huda Sultan.
7.00 News Summary
7.10 Diwanayat Shuara Al Nabt: poetry session
8.10 Li Uyoun Mithili: bedouin serial, starring Yusuf Al Jamal, Margo Aslan, Walid Barakat
9.00 News in Arabic
9.55 Al Rayah Al Baidah: Arabic serial, starring Sana Jamil.



She's the Sheriff, at 10 pm on KTV 2 tonight.

Jamil Rateb, Samiya Al Aifi, Sayyed Zayan
11.35 News Summary
11.40 World News via Satellite, followed by Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Thundercats: cartoons
6.30 Fast Forward: "Electricity." This episode deals with different sources of energy.
7.00 Steel Riders: "Bad Company." Sandra and Mike fight back after a daring chase in dark alleys.
7.30 Challenge: "Vast Continent." A group of scientists explore the southern region

of Antarctic.
8.00 News in English.
8.40 The Flying Doctors: a team of reporters arrive in town to record the life and work of the flying doctors.
9.30 Hooperman: John Ritter plays the title role in this half-hour comedy as a police inspector who inherits a building — and Bijoux, a dog described by Hooperman as "one of those horrible yapping creatures with bulging eyes."
10.00 She is the Sheriff: Hilda, injured and hospitalised, has to put up with the petty quarrel of her two aunts as well. The female sheriff of a town faces a challenging job.
10.30 Best-Seller: "Mussolini." Start of series on the life of Italian Fascist leader Benito Mussolini: Premier of Italy from 1922-1943.
11.30 News in Brief
11.40 Magazine D'Actualite/ Holy Quran/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

0000 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Radio Newsworld
30 Puccini and His World (ex 2nd Play of the Week: Murder in the Cathedral)
0100 News Summary (followed by Play of the Week: 2nd Murder in the Cathedral; 9th Heart of a Dog; 16th and 23rd A Moon for the Misbegotten — Parts 1 and 2)
0200 World News
09 British Press Review
15 A Choice of Verse
30 The Ken Bruce Show
0300 World News
09 News about Britain
15 From Our Own Correspondent
30 Prompt (ex 23rd Just a Minute)
0400 Newsdesk
30 English Songsmiths (ex 2nd Sportsworld)
45 Reflections
50 Financial News
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Lyrics and Lyricists
45 Letter from America
0600 Newsdesk
30 Jazz for the Asking
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 From Our Own

Correspondent
45 Words
50 Waveguide
0800 World News
09 Reflections
15 The Pleasure's Yours
0900 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Science in Action
40 (2nd only) Sportsworld
45 Americans in Europe (ex 2nd Sportsworld contd)
1000 News Summary followed by Short Story
15 Classical Record Review
30 Religious Service
1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 From Our Own Correspondent
30 Puccini and His World (ex 2nd Play of the Week: Murder in the Cathedral)
1200 News Summary followed by Play of the Week: 2nd Murder in the Cathedral; 9th Heart of a Dog; 16th and 23rd A Moon for the Misbegotten — Parts 1 and 2
1300 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Sports Roundup
45 The Tony Myatt Request Show including at 1400 News Summary
1430 Prompt (ex 23rd Just a Minute)
1500 Radio Newsworld
15 Concert Hall (ex 2nd Sports world)

1600 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Latin Americans (ex 23rd Rescuing the Rhine)
45 Letter from America
1700 World News
09 Commentary
15 Jazz for the Asking
45 Sports Roundup
1800 Newsdesk
30 2nd and 9th Raffles; 16th Hancock's Half-Hour; 23rd Round the Horne
1900 News Summary followed by Classical Record Review (ex 2nd From Raj to Rajiv)
15 2nd From Raj to Rajiv contd; 9th An Artist or Nothing; 16th Just Williams; 23rd The National Brass Band Championship 1988
45 (2nd only) Sportsworld
2000 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Sunday Half Hour
2100 News Summary followed by Short Story
15 The Pleasure's Yours

Urdu

1900 Opening
1910 Behreren Qaul
1916 Programme Preview
1920 Songs
1935 Press Report
1940 Ek Khayal Ek Geet
2000 News
2020 Songs
2040 Geet Kahani
2100 Closedown

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

Fortune favours the audacious — Erasmus, Dutch scholar (about 1466-1536).

Political crises threaten Lebanon

By Jim Muir

BEIRUT: The current political crisis in Lebanon has raised fears that living conditions in Beirut could become even worse than they already are.

With rival governments in Christian east Beirut and the mainly Muslim western quarter vying for control of government ministries, many people fear that vital services, already severely strained, may be used as a pawn in the struggle.

So far, leaders on both sides have said they will try to avoid actions which will harm the people.

"We will try to insulate government bodies from the current political struggle as far as possible, because it's not in our interest to split and destroy the surviving state administrations," said Selim Hoss, prime minister of the Syrian-backed West Beirut caretaker government.

"But if we fail, it'll be a disaster," Hoss added.

As the Israeli siege demonstrated in 1982, west Beirut would likely suffer most. Situated on a coastal promontory, most of its vital services depend on the Christian-controlled hinterland.

Living conditions, particularly in west Beirut, are already depressing. Electricity and water are cut frequently. Telephones work sporadically, and often not even with nearby exchanges.

Shortage

Shortages of vital commodities are also frequent — at the moment, it is bottled gas, used universally for cooking. Street corners are piled with uncollected garbage, on which rats and wild cats thrive. Buildings and cars all show the effect of neglect and demoralization: peeling, grubby facades, littered sidewalks, and battered, unwhashed vehicles are the norm.

Those who can afford to, have managed to find a way of living even with power and water cuts. Many of the smarter apartment blocks have their own generators which even operate the elevators.

The owners have also dug their own artesian wells to provide water independent of the state supply.

Most restaurants and many stores have their own generators, too, often placed outside on the sidewalk. A walk down once-

fashionable Hamra street during a power cut can be a noisy experience.

But many ordinary people cannot afford such luxuries. And even those who can would be ultimately hit by a real economic war, since even generators and pumps depend on fuel supplies.

The electricity company announced good news recently: six hours of power cuts a day, on a rotating schedule. For many, this was a considerable improvement on what they had been getting.

"In our area, we were until recently only getting three or four hours of electricity a day," said Lillian Dagher, an office worker and mother of three. "We could not run the refrigerator. That meant shopping every day, and throwing a lot of food away. My mother-in-law says she's longing for a glass of iced water."

Saline

"Water used to come only for a few hours every six days," she adds. "It's just not enough. Now we've moved to a new building with a well. But the water is getting increasingly saline, so we have to buy bottled water to drink."

The collapse of the Lebanese pound to undreamed-of levels has also introduced rampant inflation which has hit ordinary people hard. Until recent years, the pound was surprisingly firm at around six to the US dollar. Now it is about 400.

To keep pace, the Central Bank has issued new bank notes worth 500 and 1,000 pounds.

On top off all these daily worries, the collapse of the Lebanese presidency and the threat of partition have taken a heavy toll on morale. Many people had been hanging on, hoping that the presidential election would be a turning-point in Lebanon's seemingly endless crisis.

"Everybody was waiting for the election before doing anything like decorating the house, buying a refrigerator, getting married or taking a vacation," said Doris Haddad.

"Now everybody feels lost. They are just taking things day by day. But we adapt very quickly. At first we thought: no president, two governments, partition — my God. But in practice, things at the moment are still much the same."

The Christian Science Monitor.

Yugoslav leaders challenge Serbs

By Tony Barber

BELGRADE, (Reuters): Yugoslavia's Communist Party leaders are trying to curb rising ethnic unrest by challenging Serbian nationalist ambitions, but the country's political crisis shows little sign of abating.

Three days of talks by the party's policy-making Central Committee ended on Wednesday with recommendations between Serbs and Yugoslavia's smaller nationalities and no agreement on major issues such as how to finance the armed forces.

Militant Serbs underlined the continuing turmoil by demonstrating in one Yugoslav town on Thursday, while senior military officials complained the political deadlock threatened the Army's ability to defend the country.

"Who can take responsibility before the Yugoslav people for the possible consequences?" asked Deputy Defence Minister Stane Brovet, expressing frustration at the failure of Yugoslavia's six republics to agree on how to fund the military.

Slovenia, the most liberal republic, has refused to accept a constitutional amendment which would strengthen the ability of the federal authorities to make the republics finance the armed forces.

At the heart of Yugoslavia's turmoil is the desire of Serbs to regain political control of Kosovo, an Albanian-dominated southern province which lies inside Serbia and became autonomous in 1974. Serbs allege Albanians are persecuting them in Kosovo.

Party leaders denounced Albanian extremism this week but also made clear their disapproval of Serbian nationalism by passing a vote of no-confidence in Dusan Kerebic, a Serbian representative in the ruling politburo.

The vote reflected the concern of non-Serbian leaders that Serbs may seek to exploit the Albanian problem to expand their political power in the whole of Yugoslavia, a federation in which power is shared among the different nationalities.

The vote was the third major move against Serbian militancy this month and followed a period in which Serbs, the country's largest nationality with more than eight million of the 23 million people, appeared to be sweeping all before them.

The first move against Serbia was taken on Oct 8, after demonstrators pulled off a coup unprecedented in Yugoslavia's 43-year communist period and toppled party leaders in Vojvodina, another autonomous province where Serbs want more power.

Paramilitary police, going into action in Yugoslavia for the first time in years, used clubs and tear gas to stop protesters repeating their feat in the Republic of Montenegro.

The second move came on Wednesday when authorities postponed a major Serbian nationalist rally planned to be held in Belgrade on Saturday. No later date for the rally was announced.

The vote against Kerebic particularly angered militant Serbs because the Central Committee pointedly expressed confidence in all other nine Politburo members on whom it voted.

Kerebic is closely identified with Serbia's Populist Party chief Slobodan Milosevic, who heads the Serbian campaign to regain control of Kosovo.

Expressing outrage at the vote against Kerebic, about 5,000 militant Serbs demonstrated in a Kosovo town on Thursday. Some held aloft a banner proclaiming: "The Central Committee members have shown their true face."

Neck-and-neck race for general elections

Israeli politicians court Arabs for votes

By Bernard Edinger

NAZARETH, Israel, (Reuters): "We are calling this month 'Marhaba' (hello in Arabic) because of all the Israeli politicians who come to see us and seek our votes," Israeli Arab journalist Leila Ayoub jokes.

With Arab voters potentially holding the balance of power in a neck-and-neck race for Nov 1 general elections, the 600,000 Palestinian Arabs inside Israel's pre-1967 borders are being courted more assiduously than ever by Israeli parties.

Fighting

Arabs make up nearly a fifth of Israel's population. They will decide at least 15 of 120 parliamentary seats in a tight poll largely fought over their 1.7 million disenfranchised Palestinian brethren in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

So politicians from Israel's Jewish-dominated parties are showing a sudden solicitude for Arab towns that have roads, housing, sewage, telephones and

health services inferior to their Jewish neighbours.

While fighting for equality in Israeli society, Israeli Arabs feel solidarity with kinsmen in the occupied territories, now in the 11th month of an uprising against Israeli rule.

Israel's Moscow-line Communist Party and its Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (DFPE) have traditionally taken the biggest slice of the Arab vote, but the roughly 25 per cent who voted Labour in 1984 helped that party to share power.

This time, most analysts say Labour will be lucky to win half as many Arab votes, because Labour Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin is associated with Israel's "iron fist" policies to crush unrest in the occupied territories.

Poll

Arab voters may also be driven away by Labour campaign broadcasts that stress preserving Israel's Jewish majority and paint the Arab birthrate as a looming menace.

"Everyone here was shocked by that," said Ayoub, manager of Kol Al-Arab magazine. "How could anyone refer to babies as a political weapon?"

The only recent opinion poll among Israeli Arabs forecast the DFPE would win five seats, one more than last time, while the Progressive List for Peace (PLP) would keep its two seats and a new Arab Democratic Union, founded by a member of parliament who defected from Labour, would win two.

The poll said Labour could only count on two seats from Arab votes compared to four last time.

"We, the Arabs within the pre-1967 borders feel first of all that we are Palestinians. But, just after, we also want to be Israeli citizens with equal rights to Jews in the country," Ayoub said.

Identity problems have beset Israel's Arabs ever since they involuntarily became Israeli citizens when the Galilee region and the coastal Sharon Plain fell into Jewish hands in first Arab-Israeli war of 1948.

It is hard for them to identify with a state whose national anthem speaks of the "Jewish soul's... yearning for Zion," and Jewish compatriots regard them at best with indifference and at worst as potential traitors.

West Bank and Gaza Palestinians, who have lived under Israeli military rule since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, are not citizens and do not have the vote.

Self-rule

Israeli rightists want to keep the occupied areas and allow Arabs there limited self-rule, but not the right to vote in Israel. The Israeli left favours giving up most of the occupied territories.

"Until 1967, Palestinians in Israel were mostly estranged from the state and said: 'The Arab states will liberate us.' Then came the great shock of their defeat by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War," says intellectual Safwan Fahoum.

"That was followed by the death of (Egyptian President Gamal Abdel) Nasser and the peace-making visit to occupied

Jerusalem of his successor Anwar Sadat, all of which brought a psychological change during which we realised Israel was here to stay."

Protests

"Our hearts go out to West Bank and Gaza Palestinians and we want them to have their state. But we will continue to live here in Israel where we want to be treated as a national minority," he said.

Although there have been scattered protests and acts of violence by Israeli Arabs, the intifada (uprising) has so far largely failed to cross the "green line" dividing Israel from the occupied areas.

"I think the reason is that the intifada was provoked by Israel itself with heavy-handed military occupation. Our brothers rose because they could take no more. Some young people here are tempted to emulate them but they are few," said 21-year-old Samir, a Nazareth student.

He was referring to the radical Iltne Al-Balad Movement, which

denies Israel's right to exist, sympathises with Palestinian commandos and has called for an election boycott. Their limited influence is expected to be further offset by calls to vote from fundamentalist Muslims.

"Here, the Army doesn't press us and we have the right to vote. Also many people are afraid of jeopardising what they have built through years of work in a country where it is often difficult to be an Arab," Samir said.

Prosperous

Although municipal leaders say the government gives less to all-Arab Nazareth than to Jewish towns, this city of 60,000 is far more prosperous than any town in the occupied areas.

In the nearby Wadi Ara area, Arab villages on the main road leading to this Galilee hilltop town are notable for lack of proper sewage and inferior schooling facilities.

But in each one, scores of new houses are being built, mostly the result of heavy Israeli Arab input into Israel's export-oriented agriculture.



PAKISTAN'S BENAZIR BHUTTO

Pakistan election fog clearing

By Oliver Wates

LAHORE, Pakistan, (Reuters): The battle lines in next month's Pakistani elections are emerging from a fog of political manoeuvring, midnight bargaining sessions and constituency horse-trading.

On one side is Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), on the other a new, broad alliance embracing Islamic radicals, the political heirs of President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq and conservative landowners.

"The choice before the nation is clear now," Ghaffar Ahmad, secretary-general of the anti-Benazir grouping, told reporters. "There are 52 election symbols, but it has come down to two — the alliance or the PPP."

Crushed

"The election is going to be fought principally with the PPP on one side and conservatives on the other," agreed Farooq Leghari, a leading People's Party activist.

The new alliance is the child of the first-past-the-post, parliamentary election system inherited from the British colonialists, analysts said.

The PPP is the largest party. Separately its opponents were likely to be crushed, as in 1970

It's Benazir vs alliance

when the PPP won 59 per cent of the seats with only 39 per cent of votes.

"They won in 1970 because of the distribution of votes, there was no alliance," Ghaffor said. "Now the situation is quite different."

The new grouping, the Islamic Democratic Alliance, is dominated by former Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and the young but powerful Punjab province Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif.

They both served under Zia in the Pakistan Muslim League but the party split when the military president sacked Junejo's civilian government last May. Junejo's faction leans towards the land-owning class, and Nawaz Sharif's towards the federal and provincial governments. Zia left behind, and industrial interests.

The rift grew bitter after Zia's death in a plane crash in August

and Junejo even joined opposition demands for the sacking of the governments to prevent them rigging the polls.

But their common desire to stop Benazir finally brought about a reconciliation.

Forget

"We've done it on the basis of forgive and forget," Nawaz Sharif said. "Junejo and I had a heart-to-heart talk."

Both main contenders have issued lists of candidates for the 207 Muslim seats in the National Assembly at stake in the Nov 16 poll — the other 20 seats go to non-Muslims and women.

But they both face difficulties with former allies in many constituencies. The alliance had nine parties squabbling for tickets and some disappointed candidates plan to fight as independents.

The PPP will be fighting candidates from its former allies in the Movement for the Restora-

tion of Democracy (MRD), a nine-party alliance founded in 1981 to oppose Zia.

The MRD effectively fell apart on Wednesday when the PPP failed to turn up to discuss distribution of seats at a meeting in Lahore.

"Practically, the MRD is finished," one disillusioned party official said.

Concession

The PPP's only concession was not to put up candidates against the leaders of the eight smaller MRD parties.

Bhutto has pledged to work with the other MRD parties in parliament even if the PPP wins a majority by itself. But the smaller parties are left feeling they have been used and then discarded by the PPP.

"We are bitter," one party official said. "It's hardly a good example for when they need partners in parliament for a coalition."

US invasion of Grenada still debated

By George Gedda

WASHINGTON, (AP): Analysts still argue about whether the United States was justified in invading Grenada to uproot its Marxist government.

On Oct 25, 1983, US troops aided by forces from seven Caribbean countries overran the island and deposed the leftist government. Eighteen Americans, 45 Grenadans and 29 Cubans were killed during the fighting.

President Ronald Reagan's administration said the invasion was justified to protect the more than 700 US medical students on the island. But critics said this purported threat was just an excuse for striking a blow against a country because it had ties to the Soviet bloc.

Michael Ledeen, a former administration aide who spent months studying official documents captured on Grenada by US military forces, said the events of October 1983 had an "enormous impact" psychologically.

"It may well be that 20 years from now, people will say that was the beginning of the end of the Soviet empire," Ledeen said.

Message

Assistant Secretary of State Langhorne A. Motley, who played a key behind-the-scenes role in co-ordinating the invasion, said the episode sent a clear message to the United States' friends and adversaries.

"It showed that the United States was prepared to use force in the defence of its national interests," said Motley, who left government service in 1985.

Motley insisted that the driving force behind the invasion was concern for the US medical students after leftist opponents of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop deposed and then executed him and nearly 50 of his supporters.

Afterward, the Revolutionary Military Council which ousted Bishop imposed a 24-hour curfew. Motley said there were no US representatives in Grenada and State Department efforts to obtain information about the students were unsuccessful.

US officials were haunted by the memory of the 52 US hostages who had been detained by Iranian militants for 444 days in 1979-81, he said.

But Cuban President Fidel Castro has said the administration fabricated a "mountain of lies" about the supposed dangers confronting the students. He said the administration was guided above all by aggressive intentions.

Ramon Sanchez Parodi, head

of Cuba's diplomatic mission in Washington, said the stated US concern about the students was a "very thin veil" covering the Reagan administration's true intent.

"There was no effort of a non-military nature to take the student out," Sanchez Parodi said. The United States, he said, had no purpose other than to "impose its will" on the people of Grenada.

In the aftermath, Cuba moved quickly to bolster its own defences, worried that it might be the next target.

Answering critics, Reagan noted that the US intervention was carried out at the request of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, which was concerned Grenada would be used as a base of subversion against Caribbean democracies.

Some had security forces totalling only a few dozen compared with Grenada's force of 4,000.

When the Reagan administration took office in 1981, it found the trends in the Caribbean area worrisome. Leftist governments had assumed power over the previous two years in Grenada, Nicaragua and Surinam.

In Grenada, Bishop's government moved quickly to establish close ties with Cuba. A large contingent of Cubans began constructing an airport capable of handling Cuba's large fleet of MIG jet fighters.

Although Bishop insisted the

airport was designed for commercial purposes, US military analysts were concerned that the facility had the potential for enabling Cuba to project its military power for the first time into northern South America. Captured documents showed that Grenada had entered into three secret military agreements with the Soviet Union and one each with Cuba and North Korea.

Whatever the communist objectives in Grenada, the ouster of its Marxist government and replacement by an avowedly pro-US one was a setback for the Soviet bloc, especially for Castro.

Cuba had committed substantial resources in Grenada for more than four years and Castro had nothing to show for it. The 25th anniversary of his own revolution, which occurred nine weeks after the Grenada invasion, was a low key affair instead of the big extravaganza he had planned.

The invasion also produced shock waves in Nicaragua and Surinam.

In Managua, Defence Minister Humberto Ortega expressed concern that the United States would use a similar reason for invading Nicaragua. He summoned US Ambassador Anthony Quainton and offered him unlimited use of Nicaragua's bus fleet to evacuate Americans from the country.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1596 — Turks under Mohammed III defeat Austrian Arch-duke Maximilian's forces near Erlau, Hungary.
- 1641 — Great Irish massacre occurs after discovery of conspiracy against British.
- 1764 — Hector Munro's British forces defeat Nawab of Oudh at Buxar, Bengal.
- 1802 — Maharaja Hukar of Indore defeats both Peshwar of Poona and Sindhia of Gwalior at Poona, India.
- 1917 — US troops see first action in World War I near Lunenburg, France.
- 1942 — British Eighth Army attacks Axis forces to begin battle of El Alamein in Egypt during World War II.
- 1953 — Federal constitution of Rhodesia and Nyasaland goes into effect.
- 1954 — Britain, France, US and Soviet Union agree to end occupation of Germany.
- 1958 — Soviet Union approves loan to United Arab Republic for Aswan Dam, in Egypt.
- 1962 — Soviet Union warns that a US quarantine of arms shipments to Cuba risks a thermonuclear war.
- 1968 — Egyptian and Israeli jet planes tangle over Suez Canal in first such reported action since 1967 Arab-Israeli war.
- 1973 — Israeli military command announces that Israel and Egypt have agreed to new ceasefire in Middle East war.
- 1983 — Suicide terrorists blow up US Marine headquarters building at Beirut, Lebanon airport, and nearby French headquarters with bomb-laden trucks, killing 241 Marines and 58 Frenchmen.
- 1987 — Radical students hold anti-government rallies, hurl fire bombs and battle riot police in South Korea.



Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers, in cooperation with Messilah Beach Hotel are organising

KUWAIT'S 3RD BI-ANNUAL OFFSHORE POWERBOAT RACE

to be held on Friday, October 28, 1988.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Boats must be at least 18 ft. in length.
- Engines must be outboard. If a single engine is used, an additional 10hp engine is advised. Two engines are maximum permissible.
- Crew must have a minimum of two members. All crew must be at least 18 years of age.
- The boat must be registered with the port authority of Kuwait, or if the boat is from outside Kuwait, with the authority of its port of origin.

SAFETY REGULATIONS

All participants must have the following equipment:

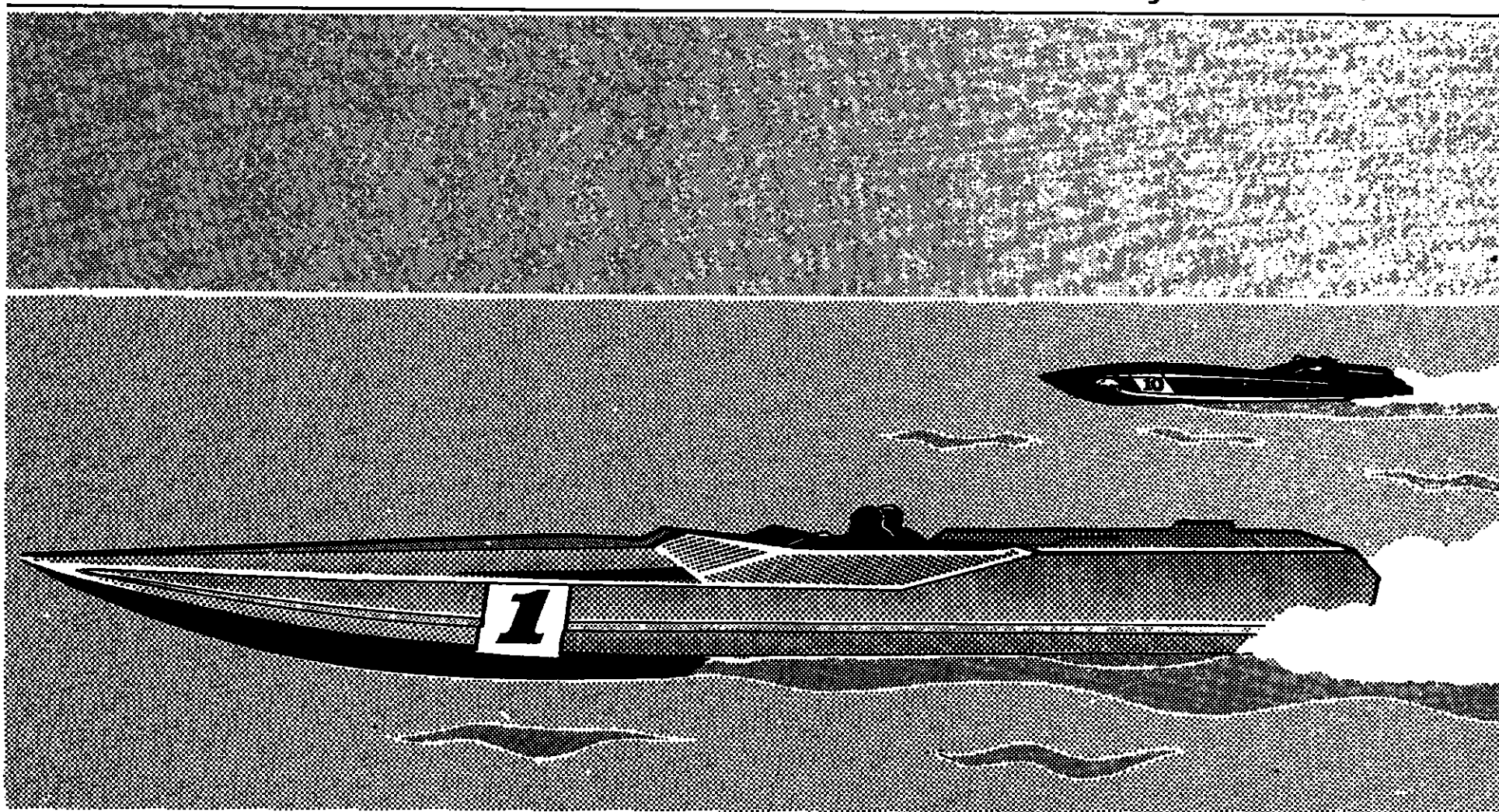
- Bright orange helmet and protective goggles.
- Bright orange life jackets (inflatable life jackets not permitted).
- A marine compass (advanced electronic navigation equipment prohibited).
- Suitable anchor and a 25 metre (minimum) rope.
- At least three red safety flares and a fire extinguisher.
- Boats must have sufficient fuel to cover the race.
- Battery or fuel tank leakages must be repaired and checked before the race.
- Each boat must be equipped with a telephone or two-way radio.

Failure to comply with the above may result in disqualification. Scrutineering will be prior to the race and safety equipment must be displayed on deck.

If needed, further bulletins will be issued.

- Participation is open to all Gulf Citizens and residents who have lived in the Gulf for a minimum of six months.
- Last date for accepting entries is October 25, 1988.

Entry fee per participant - KD 15,000



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The 67.5 Nautical mile race will start opposite the Messilah Beach Hotel.

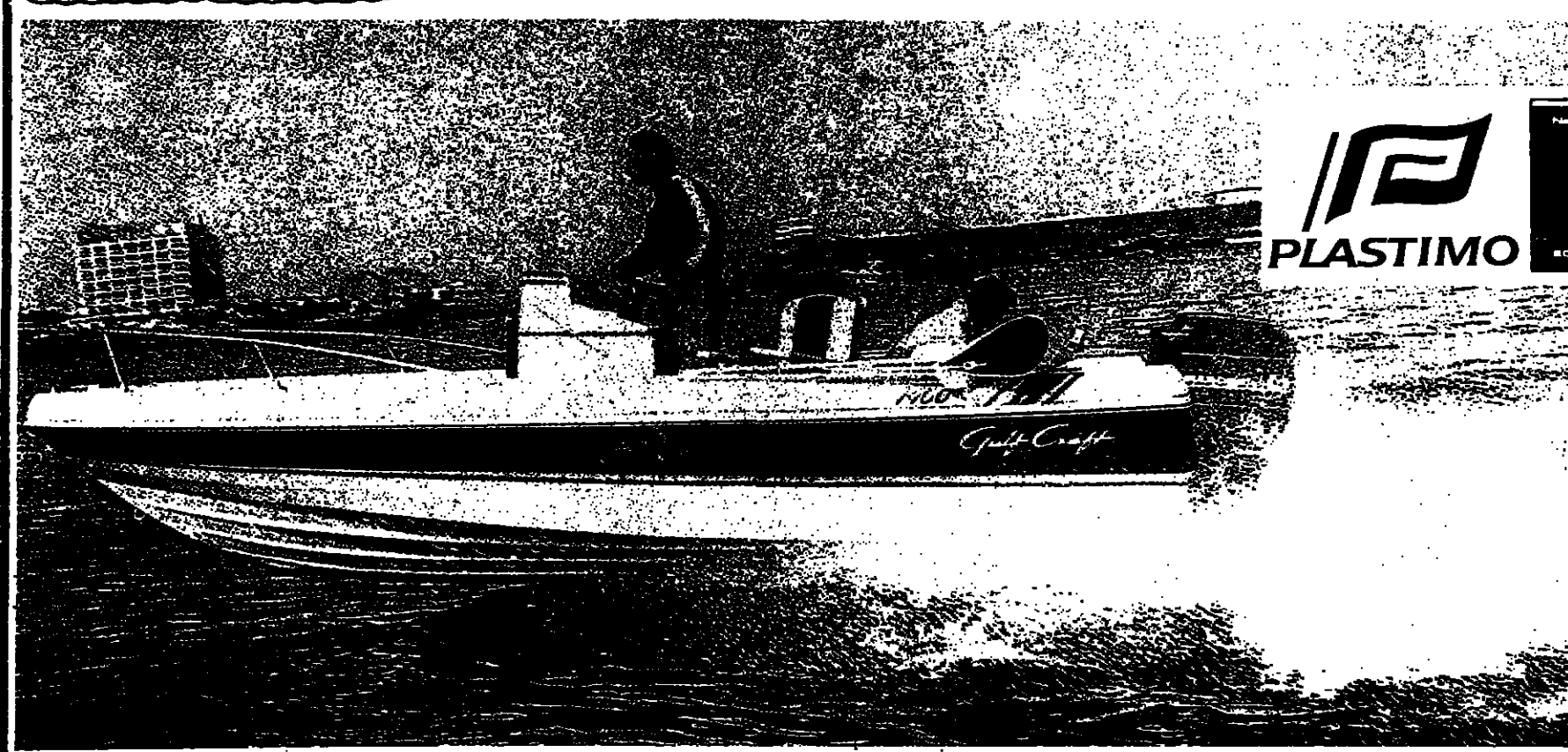
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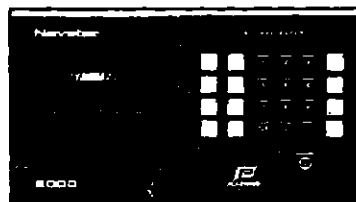
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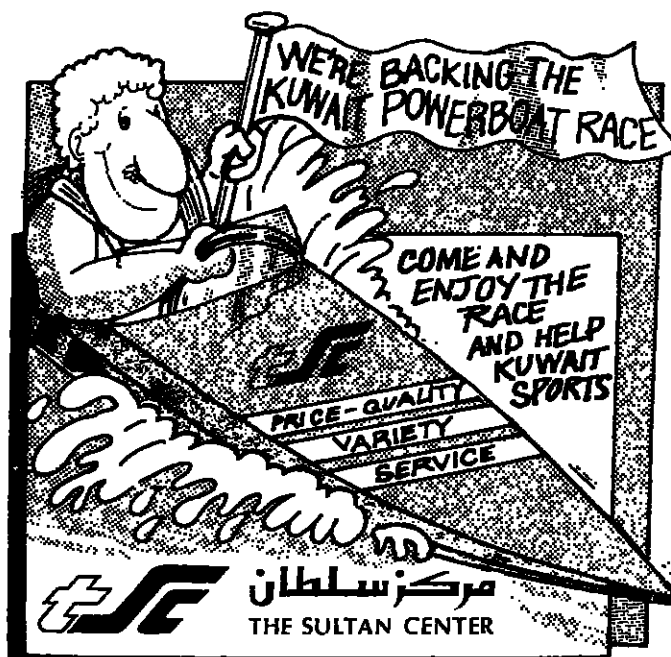


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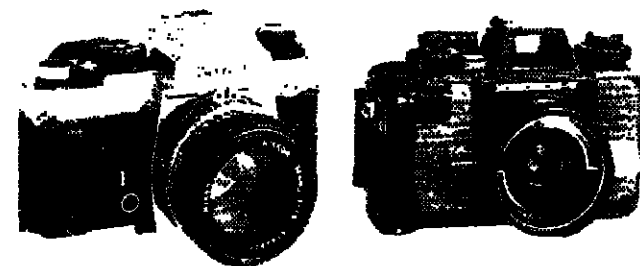
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By Monte Hayes

SIPAN, Peru (AP): The great Lord of Sipan ruled over a vast desert kingdom, died in his mid-30s and lay undisturbed for 1500 years until archaeologists reached his tomb in a race against grave robbers.

In the view of some experts, the tomb has turned out to be the most valuable such find in the Western hemisphere, and as valuable as the discovery of King Tutankhamen's burial place in Egypt.

Archaeologists might have found an empty tomb if they had arrived here later than they did. The robbers had dug to within a yard (metre) of his burial chamber before other tomb vandals tipped off archaeologists because they weren't included in the planned plunder.

"They were close to reaching him," said Walter Alva, director of Peru's National Archaeological Museum, which conducted the excavation. "If they had, they would have destroyed his tomb and we would not now have a discovery of incalculable value that will allow us to know better the ancient Peruvians."

The burial chamber contained finely crafted gold jewellery worth a half-million dollars and more than 1,200 ceramic vessels with painted scenes of daily life of the Moche people, one of the earliest civilisations of the Americas and forerunners of the Incas.

The tomb, located on the upper platform of a pyramid near the coastal village of Sipan, 500 miles (1,100 kms) northwest of Lima, has astonished archaeologists for its wealth and the information it contains about a little-known culture.

Richest

The find also has focused attention on the shadowy world of international artefact smuggling and its impact on Peru, an impoverished nation without the resources to protect and investigate hundreds of pre-Columbian temples.

"This is the richest tomb ever excavated archaeologically in the Western hemisphere. The quality of the gold work is stunning," Dr Christopher Donnan, an expert on ancient Peru, said in Washington, announcing the discovery at a mid-Sep-

tember news conference. Hespoke at the headquarters of the National Geographic Society, which financed the excavation.

Western world's greatest archaeological discovery

tember news conference.

Hespoke at the headquarters of the National Geographic Society, which financed the excavation.

The importance of the tomb's contents to archaeology ranks with the discovery in 1922 of King Tutankhamen's burial place in Egypt, said Donnan, director of the Museum of Cultural History at the University of California at Los Angeles.

The cache contained, among other items, a gold face mask, a two-foot (60-centimetre)-wide solid gold crown, a gold knife, two strands of large gold-and-silver beads shaped as peanuts and a gold warrior's shield weighing almost two pounds (1.2 kilograms).

The Lord of Sipan, the name given him by archaeologists, was a warrior-priest with administrative powers. He was about 35 at death, and stood 5 feet, 6 inches (167 centimetres) tall.

Buried with him were a favourite dog, a child, three young women, possibly wives or concubines, and three men, including one believed to be a squire, whose feet had been cut off to prevent him from abandoning his duty of guarding the tomb in the next life.

"Imagine the power he had. All those people were sacrificed and entombed with him. He was a great lord with absolute control over the lives of his subjects," said Luis Chero, a resident archaeologist at the site.

The tomb was at one end of a ceremonial, adobe-brick platform 230 feet (70 metres) long, 166 feet (50 metres) wide and 33 feet (10 metres) high.

The (50-foot (45-metre) pyramid, called Huaca Rajada by local villagers, juts up out of sugarcane fields. Some of them are still watered by canals built by the Moche, according to Juan Martinez, an archaeologist on the excavation. Ar-

chaeologists say the Moche were a warring nation given to human sacrifice, highly skilled in metallurgy and proficient in using complex irrigation systems to make desert lands produce bountiful harvests of cotton and corn.

The Moche dominated a 300-mile (480-kilometre) stretch of Peru's northern coast from about 100 to 800 A.D. Their civilisation mysteriously disappeared long before the Spanish arrived in the 1530s and destroyed the better-known Inca Empire, which held sway hundreds of years after the Moche.

The Huaca Rajada pyramid apparently was a giant mausoleum for a succession of Moche rulers, and archaeologists have recently discovered a second tomb, now under excavation, of another warrior-priest, although of lesser rank than the Lord of Sipan.

The Moche didn't have a written language. But Chero, whose copper skin and high cheekbones are a mirror image of the faces found on Sipan's golden masks, said the carefully placed layers of ceramic vessels with descriptive scenes found in the first tomb were like "the pages of a book."

Relationship Valuable information about the relationship of one object to another in a tomb can be irretrievably lost when it is plundered.

"Pottery is not placed haphazardly in tombs. It always is meant to communicate something. What the huacheros (tomb robbers) do is terrible—they destroy everything and take the pieces out of their context," said Chero.

Huaca Rajada is pockmarked with looters' pits. Near the top of the platform is a tunnel 20 feet (6 metres) straight down. It was there that huacheros from the village of Sipan made a major find in February 1987.

Working day and night with guards posted to warn of the arrival of strangers, several dozen looters extracted what is believed to have been a treasure trove perhaps as great as that found by archaeologists months later.

Soon afterwards, authorities noticed an influx of unusually fine gold and silver artefacts on the clandestine antiquities market.

Without a tip from jealous huacheros, "it would have been very difficult for the government to learn exactly where the gold was coming from," said Martinez.

In a police raid in April 1987, at the home of one of the families looting the pyramid, a ringleader was shot and killed and some of the gold artefacts rescued.

Accused

When Alva and his assistants arrived at Sipan to excavate the pyramid, the villagers accused them of trying to take what was rightfully theirs and threatened them. The site is now protected by armed police and enclosed by barbed wire.

"Many people in Sipan say their families have dug through the temples around here for generations," Martinez said. "The problem of huacheros goes back to the colonial era."

said Juan Gunther, a Lima architect and amateur archaeologist. "Huacheros (tomb robbers) were considered in the same category as mines for exploiting. A Spaniard paid the same tax on the wealth he extracted from a Huaca as from a mine."

"Only in the last 30 years have they started to penalise looting. But it continues to be a well-organised business, from the huacheros who sweat with their shovels up through the middlemen who export."

In 1938, in the greatest known plunder of the century, the owner of Batán Grande, a hacienda 30 miles (50



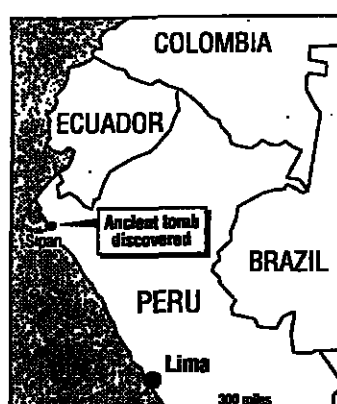
A gold mask and ear pendants, some of the treasures of the Lord of Sipan's tomb in Peru.

kilometres) north of Sipan, used a bulldozer to break open a pyramid and is said by witnesses to have filled 15 potato sacks with gold artefacts.

Peru is a rich country in pre-Inca ruins but desperately poor in practically every other way. While looters are largely free to destroy temples in their search for treasure, Peruvian archaeologists are severely hampered in their work.

"There is no economic support in Peru by the government to conduct archaeological work on a large scale," said Martinez.

"The government is interested in projects that give quick returns." Chero said hundreds of temples on Peru's northern coast have never been excavated by



archaeologists for lack of funds.

"Near Sipan alone, there are 15 pyramids. We have a good idea of where there may be tombs," he said. "But without money, we can't excavate."

26,000 year old Ice Age carving published

By Norman Hammond

WHAT may be the earliest known realistic depiction of Ice Age man has been published in the United States, three-quarters of a century after it was reportedly found in Czechoslovakia.

The small carving in mammoth ivory of a bearded man has been dated provisionally to at least 26,000 years ago, placing it close to the beginning of the history of art.

The object shows a strongly-featured face with the mouth, nose and cheeks carved with a wholly modern realism. The eyes are shown with their pupils and upper lids fully delineated. Only the bulging brow-ridge above the eyes suggests a degree of primitivism in the subject. The hair is long, but an incised beard shows the subject to be male.

The carving, which is only 3in high and ends at neck level, was brought to Alexander Marshack, a research fellow at Harvard University's Peabody Museum and a leading specialist in Ice Age art, by the Czech family which owned it.

The family, now living in Australia, claimed that the piece had been found at the end of the last century near Dolni Vestonice, a site on the Danube east of Vienna which has been famous since the 1920s for its art from the Palaeolithic period, including a lifelike ivory head of a woman and a stylized "Venus" figurine of baked clay with exaggerated breasts, hips and stomach.

Those carvings have been dated to about 25,000 years ago, some five thousand years after the first Ice Age cave art appeared in Western Europe.

Marshack regarded the present find as a probable fake until he looked at it in profile.



The carving of Ice Age man said to be 26,000 years old.

"I saw that it bore a close resemblance to two Ice Age skulls of early homo sapiens from other Czech sites, at Predmosti and Brno II," he said "and then began to feel that it might possibly be genuine."

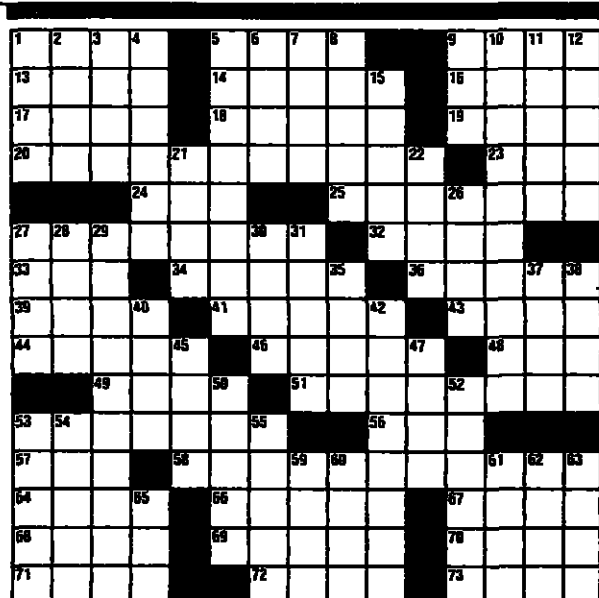
Staining by iron oxides, and the presence of fluorapatite, established by X-ray diffraction at the Peabody Museum, suggests a long period of burial, as do mineral accumulations in the carved lines and in cracks that postdate the carving.

Spectrometry

The carving presents "an intriguing series of puzzles," Marshack said in a recent issue of National Geographic, which gave the head pride of place on its cover; he now defines that more precisely as "an analytical problem." Grey clay in cracks in the ivory and other minerals suggested changing conditions of burial, while a lack of uranium in the soils of the Dolni Vestonice site suggests the carving did not come from the known settlement itself, although it might have come from the valley below.

The only dating method applied so far, alpha-particle spectrometry, found a fairly high level of uranium, the decay rate of which suggested a minimum age of 26,000 years, but the test was run for only 72 hours, and did not take place in a vacuum because of possible damage to the ivory. Although the two runs yielded similar dates, the test needs to be re-run for a longer counting period, and gamma-ray examination should also be carried out, Marshack said.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Rather namesakes
 - 5 Tete-a-tete
 - 9 Requirment
 - 13 Organic compound
 - 14 Desert green spots
 - 16 Part of the opposition
 - 17 Farm sight
 - 18 British bishop's headress
 - 19 Woodwind
 - 20 Man who would be A. King?
 - 23 Go astray
 - 24 Slippery one
 - 25 Rivulets
 - 27 Cut down on
 - 32 Evening, in Paris
 - 33 Ordinal number ending
 - 34 Annoys
 - 36 "The Hunting of the —", Carroll
 - 39 Coward of note
 - 41 Nasal passages
 - 43 Black
 - 44 French table delicacy
 - 46 Russian statesman: 1849-1915
 - 48 Maui garland
 - 49 Do winter road job
 - 51 First known
 - 53 Act affectively
 - 56 Word element meaning "gas"
 - 57 "— Wednesday": Eliot
 - 58 Upsets musician during recital?
 - 64 Highlander
 - 66 Booth
 - 67 Alaska city
- DOWN**
- 1 Jr., for example
 - 2 Indigo
 - 3 Court plea
 - 4 Not as quick
 - 5 Grouse
 - 6 Source of Samson's strength
 - 7 Italian wine region
 - 8 Gull relatives
 - 9 Late
 - 10 Chinese Chairman
 - 11 Mount an assault on
 - 12 Rows of seats
 - 15 Religious groups
 - 21 Poetic contraction
 - 22 Cupid's Greek counterpart
 - 26 "— kleine Nachtmusik": Mozart
 - 27 Cub Scout groups
 - 28 School near Windsor Castle
 - 29 Cut-rate vaccinations?
 - 30 Cabbage salad
 - 31 Uneasily
 - 35 — fine table
 - 37 Number of small deer
 - 38 Grow together
 - 40 Rhythmic cadence
 - 42 Beached
 - 45 Garish
 - 47 Public utility, for short
 - 50 Joint
 - 52 Peaceful
 - 53 Out of fashion
 - 54 Coveted award
 - 55 Halt by legal means
 - 59 A Reiner
 - 60 Aware of
 - 61 Wander freely
 - 62 Fed. agent
 - 63 Transported
 - 65 Round of golf starts here

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

AVOIDING A SHORTFALL

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
 ♠ A Q 7 4
 ♥ K J 10 8 2
 ♦ 6 3
 ♣ Q J

WEST
 ♠ 10 2
 ♥ 9 6 3
 ♦ A K 5 2
 ♣ A 8 7 4

EAST
 ♠ K
 ♥ 7 4
 ♦ J 10 8 7 4
 ♣ 10 9 6 5 2

SOUTH
 ♠ J 9 8 6 5 3
 ♥ A Q 5
 ♦ Q 9
 ♣ K 3

The bidding:

West 1♥ North 1♠ East 1♣ South 1♦

Pass 2♠ Pass 4♠

Opening lead: King of ♦

When we were first approached with this hand, we were shown only the North-South spade holding and asked for the percentage play in the suit. "With ten cards in the combined hands, finesse for the king," we stated unequivocally. "What did I tell you," the inquirer remarked to his friend. Only later did we get the full facts of the deal, and we are

rushing our apologies into print. North-South reached four spades the quick and easy way. Obviously, South's honors in his partner's suit are worth their weight in gold.

West led the king of diamonds, then cashed the ace of clubs and ace of diamonds before edging with a club. Declarer won in hand and finessed in trumps—down one.

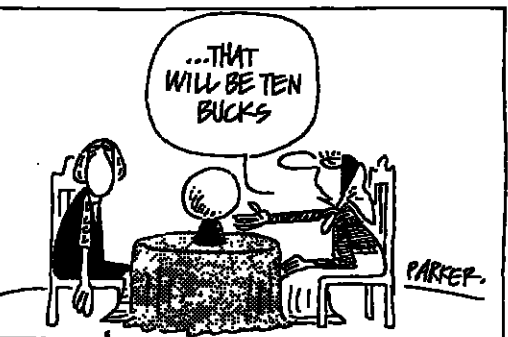
Declarer indeed took the percentage play in the trump suit. However, on this hand it was a guaranteed loser! West had passed in first seat, and he had already shown up with two aces and a king. Had he held the king of spades as well, he would have had 14 prime points, and he would certainly have opened the bidding.

Therefore, East was marked with the king of spades, so declarer should have thrown his table of mathematical odds out of the window and played a spade to the ace. This would have been his lucky day. The singleton king would have come tumbling down and the contract would have scampered home.

The moral: Percentage plays are fine and dandy if you consider only that specific suit. The correct line takes the whole hand into account.

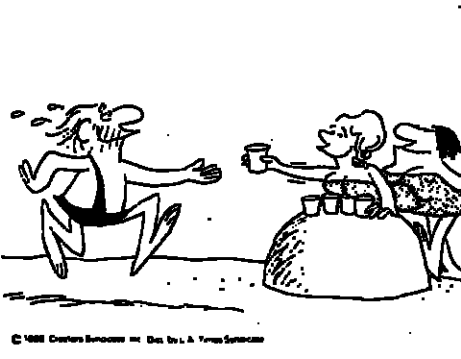
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

The Moon's better influence will help you to make your mind. You should not hesitate to make a few changes. Make sure you do not offend anyone. Be lenient.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

Make sure a discussion does not turn into a violent argument. You will be able to deal with an outstanding matter. Avoid making a nuisance of yourself. Be prompt.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will be able to show a good example to your children. Do not take too much for granted. You are all too liable to be infatuated. Be sensible.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

The less favourable influence of the Moon will tend to make you a little more nervous. You must restrain a tendency towards aggressiveness. Make sure you do not expose yourself to draughts. Be cheerful.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

A little more goodwill and leniency will do you credit. You should take your mind off work today. Have a bit of harmless fun. Be conciliatory.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

You will be able to make a good progress with a personal project. There is a tendency to be suspicious for no good reason. You should try to spend a few hours in the open air. Be benevolent.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

You will be able to take advantage of a good opportunity. Make sure you check for mistakes. Do not rely entirely on your memory, nothing shameful about making notes. Be reasonable.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

You have a good reason to be proud of yourself but none to be smug. Venus' better influence will help you to deal with a personal problem. There is no time to lose nor to waste. Be firm.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Today is not the right day to make changes, but do not shelve them altogether. There will be some ups and downs in your mood and you should make a conscious effort to avoid a confrontation.



Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19)

Remember that it is easier to tell the truth than to dissimulate consistently. The Moon's less favourable influence will tend to make you rather more irritable. You should do your utmost to keep things simple. Be tolerant.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

The Sun's less favourable influence makes it even more essential for you to take good care of your health. You are liable to jump to conclusions. Do all you can not to disturb your inner peace of mind. Be tactful.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

The Sun's better influence will help you to recognise and seize a good opportunity. You are however also liable to gloss over the difficulties. Avoid blaming others for what is fundamentally your fault. Be less insistent.



"I said, take the lock off!"

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Arab minerals development body faces deficit from unpaid dues

RABAT, Oct. 22, (Reuters): The Arab Organisation for Mineral Resources said on Friday it was owed 63 million dirhams (about \$8 million) in unpaid budget dues from most of its 16 members.

"The shortfall is causing concern," secretary-general Ahmed Alouai M'hamdi told the opening session of the group's annual ministerial conference.

He said falling world prices of raw materials, including minerals, had greatly affected the economies of many Arab countries. He did not identify the defaulting countries, but conference sources said Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were the only ones which paid their dues regularly.

Libya, Tunisia, Syria, Sudan, Qatar, Jordan, Iraq, Algeria, Somalia, Mauritania, Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation are the other members of the group, launched in 1979.

Approved
The one-day conference approved a 15 million dirham (\$1.8 million) budget for 1989 and agreed to continue studies on several projects including an Arab gold smelter and a geological and mineral deposits map of the Islamic world.

The Rabat-based organisation has already produced the Arab world's first small-scale thematic map of mineral deposits and geology costing \$2 million paid by Saudi Arabia.

Bread and meat prices go up in Yugoslavia

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Oct. 22, (AP): Yugoslav producers today announced price increases of up to 53 per cent for meat and 60 per cent for bread, just two days after an unpopular austerity programme was amended to allow salary hikes for some workers.

The Belgrade daily Politika Ekspres said the latest meat price hikes "will drive the remaining shoppers out of meat markets" and will further lower living standards of Yugoslavs.

Inflation has been running as high as 217 per cent, but the government says it plans to lower it to 95 per cent by the end of this year.

The last time prices of meat were considerably boosted was three weeks ago. Last year, the government had to cancel sharp increases in bread prices after widespread protests.

As of today, one kilogram (2.2 pounds) of prime quality steak cost 50,400 dinars (\$14) in Belgrade meat shops, up from 43,923 dinars (\$12.20) for an increase of 15 per cent.

Ground meat rose 53 per cent from 17,535 dinars (\$4.87) per kilo to 26,803 dinars (\$7.45).

Cost
A kilo of the cheapest kind of bread, now available at 380 dinars (11 cents), will cost 660 dinars (18 cents) when the new bread prices take effect, on Sunday, Politika Ekspres said.

The average monthly income in Yugoslavia is the equivalent of \$100. According to statistics, about 80 per cent of the average wage is spent on food alone.

UAE budget deficit to remain unchanged in '88

ABU DHABI, Oct. 22, (Reuters): Falling oil revenue has forced the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to keep spending this year at the same level as last year and its deficit will be unchanged, a finance ministry official was quoted as saying today.

The Arabic Al Bayan daily quoted finance and industry undersecretary Naser Al Noweis as saying the government would finance the deficit by raising non-oil revenues, rather than issuing bonds.

"The 1988 budget will be equivalent to that of 1987 as it is difficult for oil producing countries in the present circumstances to increase spending," Noweis said.

Bonds

The UAE government spent a total 14.4 billion dirhams (\$3.9 billion) in 1987, with a deficit of 2.8 billion dirhams (\$745 million) — more than double that in 1986.

The UAE said earlier this year it would issue bonds worth between two and three billion dirhams (\$540-800 million) at an unspecified date to help bridge the gap.

Sumitomo to expand business more in London

Japanese banks flexing their muscles

LONDON, Oct. 22: The fact that Japanese banks form by far the largest national group, in asset terms, among London's foreign banking community often surprises newcomers. Yet this prominence is the natural outcome of many factors.

Japan's huge \$90 billion yearly payments surplus and still larger \$130 billion capital outflow give its banks vast sums to handle. Its exporters look for a familiar financial hand to hold abroad.

More generally, Japanese financial firms are as keen as their industrial brethren to compete with their services on the world stage. And, very significantly, the still partly regulated markets in Tokyo highlight the appeal of the open London environment for much of Japan's international money business, according to Investors Chronicle.

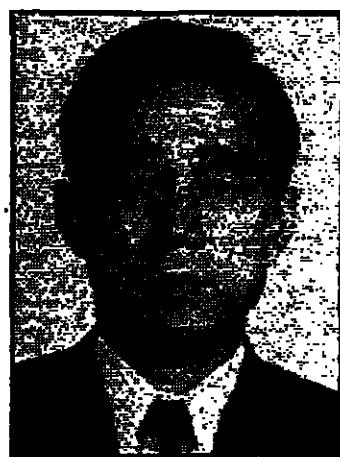
Some fifty Japanese banks are represented in London, many through sizeable branches. Their presence is of long standing, but more recently almost all of the biggest banks have also developed separate London merchant bank-securities arms.

These offshoots are now familiar in London's Eurobond markets and are also building up some of the currently fashionable corporate advice services.

Scrapped
Many see these bank-owned securities houses as flexing their muscles ahead of the day when Article 65 of Japan's Securities and Exchange Law — parallel to the US Glass-Steagall Act, separating commercial and investment banking — is scrapped.

Meanwhile, existing regulations allow the overseas securities offshoots more scope than is open to them at home.

At the same time Japan's big securities houses in their own right, headed by Nomura, the world's largest stockbroker, have forged ahead in London's international Eurobond and



Kunihiko Takai

other markets. The "big four," Nomura, Daiwa, Nikko and Yamaichi, are now all among the top six Eurobond lead managers.

And they in turn have grown interested in banking, as is shown, for instance, by the fact that the Nomura group's Nomura International Bank, a UK company founded in 1986, now has £1.4 billion assets, runs an extensive treasury business and takes deposits from a range of banks that like to keep in touch with this huge Japanese concern.

Nomura and Daiwa (which also has a UK bank) have lately been admitted as gilt market makers in London and trade, in addition, in a number of equities.

International business has long dominated the activities of the Japanese banks in London, for which the City's markets are the most important centre outside Japan.

Operations through the very large interbank market are huge and Japanese banks account for over a third of all the international (non-£) assets of banks operating in Britain.

Whether through the now less voguish syndicated lending, via the currently fashionable financing against tradable paper, or in

Foreign banks' place in UK banking market:

total assets mid-1988, £bn.

All banks	US banks	Japanese banks	Other foreign banks	Consortium banks
1,001 (per cent of whole)	102 (10.2)	241 (24.1)	271 (27.1)	17 (1.7)

Approx. percentage of above figures in foreign currency

60	78	90	73	82
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Source: Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin August 1988

Eurobonds, the Japanese banks have a name for being highly competitive in their credit terms, and for often trimming profit margins thinly.

A European banker jokes that, when other fund suppliers have "fine tuned" their terms the Japanese often then "fine tune" theirs.

Change
But there are now signs of change. The central banks' Basle "convergence pact," aimed at promoting competitive fairplay, and calling for at least 8 per cent bank capital in relation to assets, is often meaning adjustments for the traditionally lightly-capitalised Japanese groups.

These are taking the form both of more cautious expansion — with greater picking and choosing of business — and fresh building of capital.

Kunihiko Takai, senior managing director in London of Bank of Tokyo (which has a long international tradition) and one of the top Japanese bankers in Britain, explains: "Under the Basle guidelines, we have to pay more attention to capital asset ratios, to make ourselves stronger, and this is going to lead to some switch of business accent from quantity to quality."

And, looking back to last

autumn's share crash, he stresses the importance of stability and reasonable profitability in banking, which again "means quality."

The recent share listings in London by Fuji Bank and Mitsubishi Bank reflect the desire to widen the market in which new bank capital could be raised.

In addition to their activity in the big London markets, Japanese banks have increasingly wooed the UK corporate sector. Yoichi Abe, Sumitomo Bank's chief man in London, sees his bank's business with big UK companies as an important relationship, noting that, as a global bank with many Japanese customers, it is well placed to help British groups.

Sumitomo has set up a data processing centre in West London with round-the-clock computer links to Tokyo and New York. Abe adds: "We are convinced we have to expand business more in London as the centre of the European Community ahead of 1992."

With the corporate needs of both UK and Japanese companies in mind, several Japanese banks have set up offices outside London, Sumitomo and Mitsubishi in Birmingham and Fuji and Sanwa in Manchester.

Japanese bank lending to borrowers in Britain came under the spotlight in a Bank of England study last autumn which put the total at £19 billion, including considerable sums to Japanese-owned car and other distribution companies and securities houses.

So far as other borrowers were concerned, building societies and water authorities were shown as having just over a third of their total bank borrowing from Japan's banks, while — as widely publicised — local authorities seemingly took a good deal too.

The energy sector was another significant customer, but more general lending to UK industry did not emerge as very large.

Proportion
All told, the Japanese banks employ several thousand in London, only a minority of whom are Japanese, though these include a very high proportion of the top people. The "gaijin" — outsiders or foreigners from the Japanese viewpoint — have not, in general, yet penetrated much into the banks' top reaches. But observers point out that Nomura chose a "blue-eyed man" — the American Dr Andreas Prindl, an authority on Japanese finance — as managing director of Nomura International Bank.

Ministers seek reconciliation

Subroto detects progress on Iran-Iraq row

MADRID, Oct. 22, (Reuters): OPEC secretary-general Subroto said today he thought the organisation was advancing in its delicate quest to heal a rift between Iran and Iraq over oil production.

"I have detected some progress," he told reporters as a super-committee of eight ministers prepared for a third day of talks in search of a reconciliation.

The ministers have set an unofficial four-week deadline to reconcile the Gulf war enemies and prepare for a new agreement to cut production that is essential for the organisation to restore credibility on world oil markets and bolster weak prices.

But the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries wants to indicate in Madrid that tension is easing and delegates said Iran and Iraq's oil ministers seemed to be softening their stances.



Subroto

Both men toned down their rhetoric on Friday, apparently hinting that intense pressure from a united front of six other OPEC states might bring a compromise on production quotas. Iraq's Minister Issam Abdul-

Rahim Al Chalabi said on Friday Baghdad and Tehran were trying to narrow differences and his Iranian counterpart Gholamreza Azgadeh for the first time did not dismiss outright Iraqi demands on production rights.

Nevertheless, oil prices in New York slid about 25 cents a barrel in late Friday trading, shedding some of the gains in Europe earlier in the day and reflecting continued doubts over OPEC's ability to reunite.

Quota
Tehran has consistently refused to allow Iraq to match its production quota of 2.369 million barrels per day, prompting Baghdad to boycott the organisation's self-imposed ceiling for the past two years.

The Madrid talks, expected to end this evening or Sunday morning, have brought together eight nations on OPEC's price and long-term strategy commit-

tees: Algeria, Indonesia, Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, plus Iran and Iraq.

Ministers seem to have agreed all 13 OPEC producers must sign any new accord but have stressed they will need more time to forge a comprehensive pact and reconcile Iran and Iraq.

The organisation is scheduled to begin a long-scheduled bi-annual conference of all its ministers on November 21 in Vienna, but Subroto said today that the super-committee would meet at least once before then although no date had been set.

Talks
As well as formal committee talks held in the Algerian embassy, the eight oil ministers have been locked in a series of bilateral negotiations in Madrid hotels.

Gulf producers, especially Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, are mooting the possibility of reintegrating Iraq in the quota sys-

tem at Iran's level and using the resulting 17.429 million barrel-a-day ceiling as a starting point for an increase on a pro-rata basis for all 13 states to 18.5 to 19 million.

That would effectively cut current daily production levels by at least 21 million barrels as a growing number of OPEC states flout a 1986 agreement.

Differences
Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have threatened to flood the oil market if OPEC states fail to mend their differences, angering producers such as Venezuela and Ecuador whose debt-laden economies are less able to cope with a sharp fall in prices.

Even Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, unveiled a domestic borrowing scheme earlier this year to ease a growing budget deficit but still has huge foreign reserves built up during the oil boom of the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Construction of new homes rises

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22, (Reuters): Construction of new homes rose 1.5 per cent in September to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.453 million units, the Commerce Department said today.

But housing permits, a sign of future construction activity fell a sharp 4.4 per cent, the agency said.

Financial analysts had expected a slight increase in housing construction in September, but many said they see housing activity remaining soft as a result of higher mortgage interest rates.

Growing
The modest increase in housing starts and the drop in permits for future construction was a sign that the economy is still growing, but not too quickly, economists said. This should help ease pressure on future interest rate rises.

Saudi Arabia's progress praised

Bright prospects for Gulf region's industrial growth

VIENNA, Oct. 22, (OPECNA): A UN survey issued here this week says prospects for the Gulf region's industrial growth "appear rather good, although uncertainties still reign in the world oil market."

The "global report (1988-89)" released on Monday by the UN industrial development organisation (UNIDO) picks out OPEC member Saudi Arabia for special praise for its industrial progress.

The report also praises the region's oil producing countries which "notwithstanding reduced budgets" have continued their efforts to "change the economic base from oil to industry... notably in Saudi Arabia."

The efforts, notes UNIDO, are "beginning to bear fruit," adding: "An increased number of joint-venture projects, huge

markets with import substitution possibilities, the efficiency-oriented reforms, including decentralisation and reliance on the market, coupled with the new mood of intra-regional co-operation, give grounds for guarded optimism about the future industrial growth of the region as a whole."

Steps
The report lists steps taken by countries in the region to diversify their export earnings through a reform of industrial policies and strategies. These include reliance on the private sector and the market, decentralisation of decision-making and trade liberalisation. Bureaucratic "interventions," adds the report, have been reduced, though by "varying degrees" and greater efficiency has been introduced into the economies.

UNIDO
UNIDO says the basic reason for the success lies in the country's comparative advantage — cheap oil and gas. The steady reduction in European and US petrochemical capacity also helped, coupled with a rapidly increasing demand for plastics in east and southeast Asia and elsewhere.

UNIDO predicts: "In the future, resource cost advantage

"thereby offsetting the adverse effects of budget cuts due to low oil revenues."

The report cites the 1987 revenues of the Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) at \$267 million, a two-fold increase over 1986. Profits registered a four-fold increase "to the surprise of critics and doubters," it notes.

Growth
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UNIDO predicts: "In the future, resource cost advantage

is likely to attract increasing number of joint ventures in petrochemicals from abroad, and with them advanced technology and marketing skills," adding it augurs well for the kingdom to provide "a much-needed growth thrust to the region," especially if co-operative efforts are forthcoming.

The report recommends that Saudi Arabia and other oil producing countries in the region, rich in capital funds and oil resources, can develop their industrial base further with downstream integration.

"The well-balanced shape of structural change in the region's industry attests to the degree of complementarity existing between countries in region, for instance, between Turkey and Saudi Arabia."

China closes firms and freezes funds in corruption crackdown

BEIJING, Oct. 22, (Reuters): China has ordered hundreds of trading companies to halt business and imposed tight controls on the bank accounts of thousands more in a mounting anti-corruption campaign, Chinese sources said on Thursday.

Many of the firms, capitalist-style organisations set up under China's economic reforms, are headed by relatives of high-ranking communist politicians, the sources said.

The clean-up ordered in the

Kanghua Company, closely connected to Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping's crippled son Deng Pufang, is only the most highly publicised tip of a national crackdown on rampant corruption and abuse of privileges.

"Everyone is keeping their heads down and hoping it will pass over. For the moment it is very difficult to do business," one Beijing trader said.

Most target firms are suspected of speculation in scarce goods, which has fuelled China's high price inflation and wor-

sened shortages of key raw materials this year, leading to a slowdown of reform policies.

In northeast China's Liaoning province alone, 545 enterprises run by Communist Party or government officials have been ordered to stop business. In neighbouring Jilin province 53 officials have resigned from posts in companies accused of black marketeering, official reports said on Thursday.

The bank accounts of many Beijing companies have been frozen in effect this month by

regulations forbidding them to withdraw more than 500 yuan (\$135) a day, forcing some to suspend business or seek black market loans at high interest, a Chinese source said.

The new regulations prevent enterprises and government bodies holding large amounts of cash, forcing them to settle transactions by cheque, in what observers said appeared to be a bid to make corrupt business more easily traceable.

Beijing has permitted the formation of semi-independent

companies since the mid-1980s in the hope of stimulating competition and efficiency, but has strictly limited the number of business licences it issues.

"What has been created is not free competition but the worst kind of capitalism," one Beijing academic commented.

"The only people who can get licences are those with good Communist Party connections. Then they cannot fail to make money because they have monopoly over trade in many goods, such as imported cars."

World Business Summary

NRI unit to set up factory in Bangalore

BANGALORE, Oct. 22: Ultrafilter (India) Private Limited, an NRI unit promoted by K.K. Kini in technical and financial collaboration with Ultrafilter GmbH, West Germany, is establishing a factory to manufacture industrial filter elements at Bommasandra Industrial area, on the outskirts of Bangalore. Kini, managing director of Ultrafilter (India) said that with the manufacture of filter elements the company would be entering the second phase of its phased manufacturing programme. In its first phase, the company was mainly involved in manufacturing housings and engaging in vendor development. In the third and final phase, ending 1989, the company proposes to manufacture high-tech compressed air dryers-hand-in-hand it also proposes to set up an integrated research and development facility for industrial filters. The three phases involve a total investment of Rs 1 crore. Kini noted that while the company had achieved a turnover of only Rs 7 lakhs in its first year of operations, this figure had risen to Rs 41 lakhs for the year ended March 31, 1988. The company has targeted a turnover of Rs 1.20 crores by March 1990. He described the company's collaborator, Ultrafilter GmbH as a small and dynamic company which had captured 55 per cent of the German market in its ten years of existence, the German company had a 26 per cent share in Ultrafilter (India), he added. Ultrafilter (India) is programmed to manufacture a range of filters such as air removal filters, liquid filters, vacuum filters, sterile filters, dust filters and steam filters, the company has been supplying filters to several original equipment (OE) manufacturers including Atlas Copco, Ingersoll Rand, Kirloskar Pneumatic and Alfa Laval. Kini noted that currently, industrial filters were mostly being imported and therefore, with indigenous manufacture, his company would be saving in foreign exchange. This import substitution product found application in several industries including pharmaceuticals, fertilisers, electronics, breweries and distilleries, he stated. The company's Bommasandra factory is scheduled to be inaugurated on Oct 29 by the Karnataka Minister of Power and Industries, J.H. Patel.

Taiwan cuts import tariffs on 331 items

TAIPEI, Taiwan, Oct. 22, (AP): The cabinet approved import tariff cuts on Thursday on 331 items in an effort to open Taiwan's market to foreign products. The government information office said in a news release the reductions covered 49 industrial products such as toothpaste and deodorant, and 172 machinery items for the textile, printing, construction, and other industries. The package also listed 110 items on which tariffs were cut, such as raw silk and cellophane, whose imports would lower production costs for newly emerging industries, the statement said. Cuts were included on 50 of the 73 industrial items requested by the United States, but none of the 102 agricultural items asked by Washington was included because officials said local farmers need government protection, it said. The statement did not say by how much the tariffs would be cut or give a range for the reductions, but said the government will lose about 3.57 million dollars (\$123 million) in annual tax revenue as a result of the cuts, it said. Taiwan has been under pressure from the United States, its largest trading partner, to open its market wider to foreign goods and reduce its huge trade surplus. In February, tariffs on 3,500 items were cut by an average of 50 per cent in Taiwan's most sweeping cutback. Last year, Taiwan registered an overall trade surplus of \$19 billion, of which \$16 billion was with the United States on two-way trade of \$31.2 billion.

Oil firms could return to Venezuela: Perez

CARACAS, Venezuela, Oct. 22, (AP): Presidential candidate Carlos Andres Perez said yesterday that foreign oil companies could return to Venezuela to explore and eventually exploit oil, the same industry he nationalised 12 years ago. Foreign companies also could come to Venezuela in association with the state-owned monopoly Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) and work together in oil refining ventures, the Social Democratic president from 1973 to 1978 said at a news conference. Such an agreement with foreign oil companies would be the first since the government took over the oil industry, the country's main source of revenue, since the Jan. 1, 1976 nationalisation. "Our law permits it," said Perez, whose government created PDVSA to take over operations of foreign corporations such as US Standard Oil, Occidental, Texaco and Royal Dutch Shell. Venezuela has a production capacity of 1.8 million barrels per day, some 300,000 barrels over its current quota mandated by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. "It means we stand well in exploration. But it could be necessary to look for agreements with foreign companies to explore for oil," the former president said. Perez, 67, is widely expected to win Venezuela's Dec 4 presidential elections. All recent polls have given him a solid lead of up to 15 per cent over his main rival, Social Christian Eduardo Fernandez. While Perez seemed ready to welcome back foreign oil companies, he also firmly disapproved of new purchases of oil refineries abroad by PDVSA. "I disagree with new investments (in refineries) abroad. Why don't we do it here," he asked. "Continuing this way (of purchasing refineries) will lead us to denationalise oil. Let's do contracts with foreign companies in Venezuela," he said. During the past five years Venezuela has pursued an aggressive campaign to internationalise its oil industry, associating with foreign refineries as a means to secure markets for oil exports. PDVSA also owns interests in refining companies in West Germany, Sweden, the United States.

Austria likely to seek EEC membership in June

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Oct. 22, (AP): Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock said Friday his country may apply for membership in the European Economic Community as early as next June. But, speaking to journalists after a visit to the EEC headquarters, he said Austria only wants to join the 12-nation EEC if its political neutrality can be guaranteed. Mock said there was "broad consensus" among Austria's three main political parties that their country should join the EEC. "Substantial negotiations on (EEC) membership would not take place until after 1992," Mock said, even though the EEC was "sympathetic" to Austrian membership. As of Dec 31, 1992, the EEC wants to remove all borders and other barriers hampering trade within the EEC. It has ruled out any negotiations on new members until after this has been achieved. The only other nation that has expressed an interest in joining the EEC is Turkey, whose membership is opposed by Greece. Mock said Austria's history of neutrality was "well suited" to contribute to improving relations between East and West. He cautioned not to overstate recent Soviet concerns about Austrian membership in the EEC because of its neutrality. He said that neutrality would have to be guaranteed in any membership negotiations. At the moment, Ireland is the only neutral EEC member. Mock said he had "valuable" talks here with EEC external relations commissioner Willy de Clercq on truck traffic through Austria. Some 20 per cent of trucks driving through Austria are EEC-registered and these aggravate noise and air pollution problems, traffic congestion and damage to roads and buildings. Austria is seeking financial help from the EEC to build tunnels and improve existing roadways. The EEC Commission needs the approval of the 12 EEC states to negotiate such aid with Austria.

Alshall stock price indices

Trade volume climbs as market shows mixed trend

THE Alshall Index for Kuwait shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 42.70 points with a decrease of 0.06 point — 0.1 per cent — from last week's average. Alshall Index for Gulf shareholding companies reached 49.09 points with a decrease of 0.25 point — 0.5 per cent — for the same period.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 32.96 million shares at a daily average of 6.60 million shares with an increase of 8 per cent over the previous week's daily average of 6.13 million shares.

Gulf traded shares reached 24.77 million shares at a daily average of 4.95 million shares with an increase of 1 per cent over last week's daily average of 4.90 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD 13.065 million at a daily average of KD 2.613 million, a decrease of 13 per cent from last week's daily average of KD 2.995 million. The value of Gulf traded shares was KD 0.896 million at a daily average of KD 0.179 million, a decrease of 27 per cent from last week's daily average of KD 0.244 million.

Market performance this week showed mixed signs, positive at times but inclined to be weak at the end of the week due to the unexpected changes in the Iraq-Iran peace talks. Alshall consultants expect the market to continue its fluctuations throughout the rest of this year.

However, this will increase the investment risk in the market together with shortening the economic cycles.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector came first at 55 per cent of total trading with a slight negative change from last week's 59 per cent.

National Bank of Kuwait led in the sector at 29 per cent, followed by The Commercial Bank at 21 per cent and Gulf Bank at 13.5 per cent. Second came the services sector at 20.6 per cent of total trading of which Kuwait commercial markets had the lead at 79 per cent, followed by Mobile Telephone Systems at 19 per cent.

The investment sector came third at 16 per cent of total trading in which Investment Pearl Kuwait led at 58 per cent followed by Kuwait Investment Company at 29 per cent and Commercial Facilities at 13 per cent. For The Gulf Shares Market, other companies sector led at 65 per cent of total trading volume, Ras Al-Khaima White Cement led at 44 per cent of total trading in both markets, followed by Om Al-Quween (unlisted in the index) at 21 per cent and Bahrain and Middle East Bank at 17 per cent.

Kuwait shareholding companies index

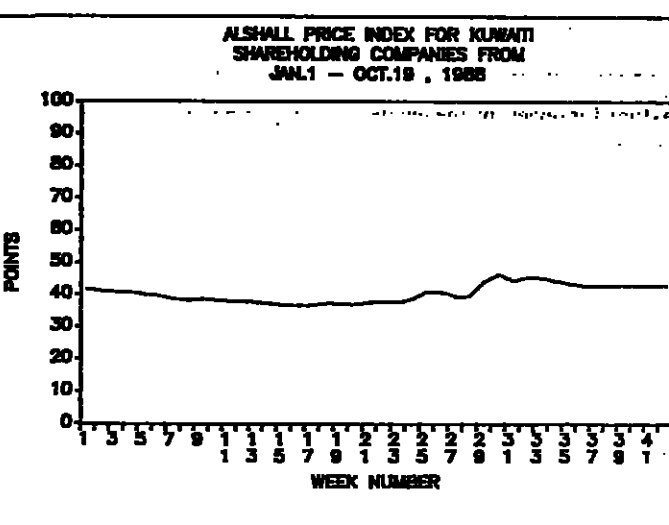
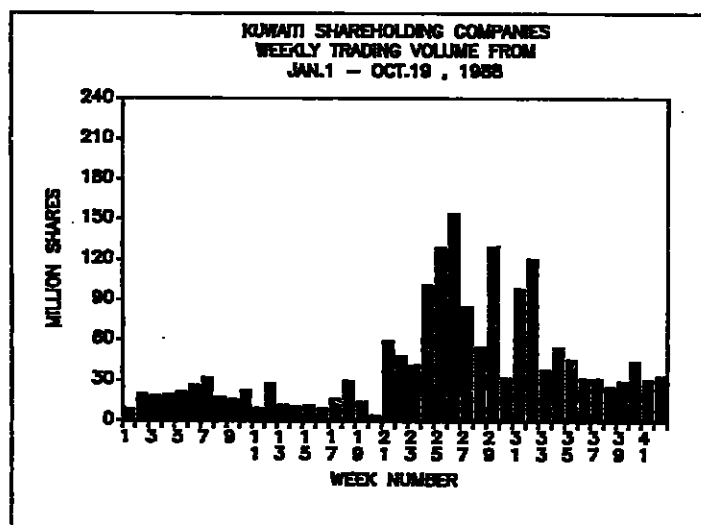
	Wednesday 12/10/88	Wednesday 12/10/88	Change points
Banking Sector			
National Bank	112.62	111.60	1.01
Gulf Bank	35.63	35.22	0.41
Commercial Bank	27.44	27.87	-0.44
Al Ahli Bank	36.04	36.52	-0.48
Bank of Kuwait & M. East	34.20	34.64	-0.44
Kuwait R. Estate Bank	30.95	30.95	—
Burgan Bank	31.22	30.72	0.50
Kuwait Finance House	84.66	86.17	-1.51
Sector Index	48.72	48.62	0.09
Investment Sector			
Kuwait Investment Co.	27.18	27.55	-0.37
Kuwait Int. Invest. Co.	25.43	25.43	—

Inv. Pearl Kuwait	84.13	82.54	1.59
IFA	73.53	73.53	—
Commercial Facilities	120.00	120.00	—
Sector Index	38.46	38.60	-0.15
Insurance Sector			
Kuwait Insurance Co.	39.68	39.68	—
Gulf Insurance Co.	26.92	28.46	-1.54
Al Ahlia Insurance Co.	51.28	51.28	—
Warba Insurance Co.	78.18	78.18	—
Sector Index	40.30	40.70	-0.40
Real Estate Sector			
Kuwait Real Estate	29.57	29.57	—
United Realty	11.17	11.17	—
National Real Estate	40.21	40.61	-0.40
Sector Index	20.79	20.85	-0.06
Industrial Sector			
Kuwait Cement Co.	17.38	17.38	—
Refrigeration Indust.	91.14	91.14	—
Gulf Cables	111.07	112.10	-1.03
Kuwait Pharmaceutical	93.33	94.22	-0.89
Sector Index	36.17	36.33	-0.16
Services Sector			
Kuwait Computer Co.	192.24	192.24	—
Kuwait Cinema Co.	9.04	9.04	—
Public Warehousing Co.	79.80	81.82	-2.02
Kuwait Comm. Markets Co.	35.95	35.95	—
Mobile Telephone Syst.	328.57	338.10	-9.52
Sector Index	62.43	63.83	-1.39
Food Sector			
Livestock Trad. & Transp.	46.38	46.38	—
United Fisheries	10.91	10.91	—
Kuwait United Poultry	79.21	79.21	—
Kuwait Food Co.	72.41	71.41	1.00
Sector Index	42.20	42.20	—
Overall Index	42.70	42.75	-0.06

Gulf shareholding companies index

	Wednesday 12/10/88	Wednesday 12/10/88	Change points
Financial Companies			
First Gulf Bank	163.16	163.16	—
United Gulf Bank	34.48	34.48	—
Bahrain Internat. Bank	95.17	95.17	—
Bahrain M. East Bank	93.97	94.92	0.95
Gulf Investments Co.	61.03	61.03	—
Coast Inv. & Dev. Co.	99.05	99.05	—
Bahrain Kuwait Inv. Gro.	60.30	60.30	—
Arabian Gen. Inv. (SHUAA)	53.03	53.79	-0.76
Sector Index	64.62	64.65	-0.13
Other Companies			
Gulf Cement (fully paid)	13.68	13.68	—
Sharjah Cement	10.50	10.50	—
Fujairah Cement	8.55	10.53	-1.97
Ras Al Khaima W. Cement	28.33	28.89	-0.56
Gulf Medical Projects	32.56	32.56	—
Sector Index	16.74	17.24	-0.50
Overall Index	49.09	49.34	-0.25

Base Period 31/12/1983.



Occidental offers fair compensation to oil-disaster families

LONDON, Oct. 22. (Reuters): Occidental Petroleum said yesterday it had made "fair and generous" compensation offers to families of the 167 men killed in the world's worst off-shore oil drilling disaster on the North Sea Piper Alpha platform.

A company spokeswoman declined to say how much money had been offered or comment on a British independent television news report on Sunday that average compensation would be about £60,000 (\$1 million).

John Brading, chief executive of Occidental UK, said in a statement he hoped families would accept the offers and avoid lengthy litigation in US courts with its US parent company.

On July 6 explosions and fire apparently caused by a gas leak demolished Piper Alpha, 120 miles off the Scottish coast.

"Occidental has made every effort to settle compensation claims fairly and promptly to avoid bereaved families having to face the prospect of financial hardship in addition to the shock and sorrow of the disaster," Brading said.

"In making these offers, which we believe to be fair and generous, we are fulfilling our promise."

Brading said the proposal were presented to lawyers representing the families and compensation offers would also be made to workers who survived the disaster.

Occidental has begun to salvage an accommodation module believed to hold the bodies of the 112 men still missing from the disaster.

Sheikh Salem for Riyadh

KUWAIT, Oct. 22. (KUNA): Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah leaves here tomorrow for Saudi Arabia heading a Kuwaiti delegation to the meetings of the GCC central banks governors.

The GCC general secretariat announced in Riyadh, the meeting will start tomorrow, will discuss a host of issues relating to Gulf states currencies, banks, investments abroad as well as other regional and world issues.

EEC industrial output up

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Oct. 22. (AP): The industrial production in the 12-nation European Economic Community rose an estimated 0.5 per cent in July from June, according to the European statistical agency Eurostat.

The year-to-year increase was 4.5 per cent.

Petrochemical ventures in the Gulf under study

NEW DELHI, Oct. 22. India is working on a possibility of setting up petrochemical projects in West Asia. This follows identification of areas of joint ventures by India and countries like Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and Abu Dhabi.

This development comes in the wake of a visit by a high-level study team, under J.J. Mehta, to West Asia. Mehta was, at one time, chairman of Indian Petrochemicals Ltd. (IPCL). The team had gone at the instance of the department of chemicals and petrochemicals to study the feasibility of setting up joint ventures in petrochemicals in these countries.

The J.J. Mehta team comprised C.D. Anand, industrial adviser, DGT, Mrs. Lalitha B. Singh, deputy adviser, petrochemicals, M.V. Naik, General Manager IPCL (engineering), K.N. Naik, joint financial controller IPCL, and G.D. Goyal, deputy manager, Engineers India Ltd. (EIL).

The study team had earlier been constituted to determine possibilities for co-operation in the Gulf. The department of chemicals and petrochemicals

therefore further decided to ask the study team to visit these countries for an on-the-spot assessment.

To begin with, SABIC of Saudi Arabia, plans to increase its ethylene capacity by 5,00,000 tonnes per annum (TPA). It wants to set up a joint venture with India for producing 2,50,000 TPA LDDPE with long-term buying commitments.

SABIC has also shown interest in a joint venture project in India to meet the local requirements. Saudi Arabia appears to be keen on collaborating in the production of styrene by importing benzene from India for a 1,00,000 TPA plant. Of this, half could be sold in the international market. The finance for the joint project would be made available in Saudi Arabia on subsidised rates.

Normally, the J.J. Mehta group is reported to have said, 3:1 debt equity ratio with 51:49 equity participation is allowed in Saudi Arabia. The project could be set up in the Al Jubail industrial town for petrochemical complexes.

According to information available here, a preliminary proposal from Bahrain was also

examined which related to the use of gas in producing 2,00,000 TPA ethylene or 2,00,000 TPA LDDPE with 100 per cent import by India. In this regard, EIL has submitted a proposal for development of the petrochemical industry in that country by using natural gas fractions.

Discussions with Qatar and Abu Dhabi centred round diversifying their activities in petrochemicals.

In Qatar, the study team identified an availability of 1.40 lakh TPA of ethylene. Proposals for co-operation with Qatar in the petrochemicals area would now be taken up on a government-to-government basis or any other mutually identified channel.

The Qatar government, meanwhile has sought information like the extent of participation by India, marketing aspects like long-term agreement and the expertise available here.

Abu Dhabi, for its part, expects a formal letter from India outlining the details about joint ventures that might be proposed. The officials from that country are keen to visit Indian petrochemical complexes to get first-hand information.

US warns against subsidised loans to Soviet Union

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22. (Reuters): The US State Department, responding to reports West European and Japanese banks plan to lend more than \$9 billion to the Soviet Union, said on Friday the loans must be at market rates and not subsidised.

A big rise in foreign lending to the Soviet Union has aroused concerns in Congress, with some members arguing that new loans could help Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev maintain a powerful military while moving ahead with perestroika, his economic restructuring programme.

The New York Times reported on Friday there was a split in the Reagan administration over the loan issue. It said the Defence Department opposed such lending-on-grounds it would help keep Moscow strong and threatening, while the State and Treasury Departments did not want to offend allies or to interfere with the flow of capital.

Intention According to news reports commercial banks in Japan, Britain, France, West Germany and Italy had announced over the past 10 days their intention to lend \$9 billion to the Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs in Moscow.

This was a dramatic increase, because in the three years ended last December 31 only \$8 billion had been lent to the Soviet Union.

some firms, individuals can hold shares only in the enterprise where they were employed. But enterprises can purchase shares in each other, and shares can be issued by commercial banks, Tass said.

"In this way it will be possible to combine the interests of an enterprise with the interests of workers," it added.

There will be one major difference between Soviet and Western-style share-holding. In the Soviet Union, shareholders will not have preference when managing the enterprise.

"As to participation in managing the enterprise, as distinct from the Western model, the rights of shareholders and non-shareholders will be absolutely equal," Tass said. "Otherwise democratic principles would be damaged."

"The incomes, naturally, will be different," it added. There are also limits on how many shares a Soviet worker can buy. They cannot be worth more than 20 times the monthly wage or exceed 10,000 roubles (\$16,400), Tass said.

The total value of shares issued to workers may not exceed 30 per cent of the sum of the enterprise's fixed and current assets, it added.

The money an enterprise makes from selling the shares will be invested in production, Tass said.

Spectre of hyperinflation alarms Brazil

BRASILIA, Brazil, Oct. 22. (AP): The threat of hyperinflation is alarming the government and private investors, who are abandoning the devalued cruzado currency in favour of gold and illegal black market dollars.

The Finance Ministry has predicted record inflation of about 28 per cent in October, which translates into an annual rate of close to 2,000 per cent.

Panicky investors are dumping cruzados for more inflation-proof currencies. In three days this week, the demand for dollars pushed up black market prices by 20 per cent, while gold prices rose 18 per cent.

Inability Finance Minister Mailson Da Nobrega said the situation was "one of the most serious" to face the civilian regime of President Jose Sarney, who in 1985 succeeded a 21-year military regime.

Sarney's inability to control inflation has made his government extremely unpopular. And inflation is expected to be a key issue in next year's scheduled presidential elections, the first free balloting since 1960.

In a live television interview on Friday, Da Nobrega said the economy had not yet entered a stage of hyperinflation, when money is not worth the paper it's printed on. But he admitted it was a possibility.

"It can happen," he said. "It's like a stampede. If we all talk about hyperinflation, we'll get it."

Transactions Inflation last year was 366 per cent, and the government has predicted it will reach at least 800 per cent this year.

The Cruzado, created in 1986 as part of a failed anti-inflation plan named after the new currency, currently loses value against the US dollar at a rate of more than 1 per cent a day.

Increasingly, the cruzado is being replaced in day-to-day transactions by a treasury note called the OTN, which is adjusted for inflation. Prices of everything from clothing to used cars today are often set in OTNs.

"We are witnessing the same climate that preceded the cruzado plan, but no one is willing to risk another denationalising failure," Finance Ministry spokesman Geraldo Moura told the AP.

Da Nobrega has insisted on what he calls a "price-and-beans" approach to the economy — that is, no fancy or exotic remedies such as a price freeze.

The minister has said that excessive government spending is the root of inflation. But Sarney has been unable — or unwilling — to significantly cut expenditures. Efforts to reduce salaries in the bloated bureaucracy have led to a wave of nationwide strikes by public employees.

Crash anniversary was a non-event, say experts

Renewed buying interest pushes Dow to new high

NEW YORK, Oct. 22. (UPI): Wall Street marked the first anniversary of its worst collapse over this week but the event was overshadowed by dramatic announcements by Philip Morris Cos. and top executive at RJR Nabisco Inc.

Despite the media attention given to the one-year anniversary of last October's 508-point plunge in the Dow, market professionals said the Wednesday anniversary was a "non-event" and the Street had more immediate concerns.

The market retreated on Wednesday — the Dow was of 22.58 — but analysts blamed the pull-back on a surge in oil prices not the memories of a year ago.

Surged

The next session, however, the market surged as takeover activity and renewed buying interest pushed the Dow to a new recovery high of 2181.19.

The stunning takeover developments came on Monday and Thursday and both involved giant food companies — Kraft Inc. and RJR Nabisco Inc.

On Monday, Philip Morris Cos. launched a \$90-a-share, or \$11.8 billion, bid for Kraft, the nation's largest food company, which is based in Glenview, Illinois.

Kraft chairman and chief executive officer John M. Richmond on Thursday accused the major tobacco producer of planning the takeover for some time and said his company would not be pressured into immediate negotiations.

"You must have been planning your takeover bid for a long time," Richmond said in a letter to Philip Morris chairman Harish Maxwell. "We intend to take our time and study the situation carefully."

"We have a fiduciary duty to

our shareholders and an obligation to our employees, customers, suppliers and communities to do so," Richmond said.

Move If the Philip Morris move was not enough to shake up Wall Street, news out of Atlanta early Thursday morning had the potential to re-write takeover history.

Top RJR Nabisco executives, backed by one of the nation's largest financial institutions, said they are considering a \$75-a-share, \$17 billion leveraged buyout of the tobacco and food giant.

The takeover proposal was made by F. Ross Johnson, RJR Nabisco chief executive, and Edward A. Horgan Jr., chief executive officer of its tobacco division, among other members of management.

Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc. confirmed it was working with the RJR Nabisco managers on providing financial backing for the takeover.

If the RJR Nabisco deal were to go forward, and if it were to be completed, it would be the largest corporate takeover in US history, surpassing the \$13.3 billion purchase of Gulf Oil Corp. by the Chevron Corp. in 1984.

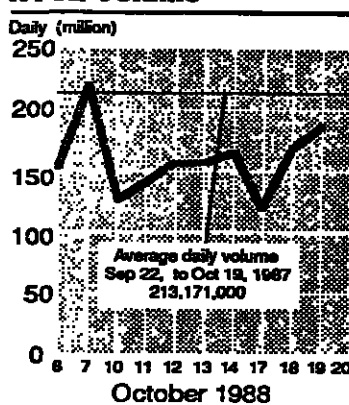
In other corporate news, Time Inc. on Thursday agreed to pay at least \$185 million for a 50 per cent interest in Whittle Communications Inc.

Deal

The deal gives Time a stake in Whittle Communications' profitable magazines, posters and newsletters that are created for advertisers and distributed to highly specialised audiences.

Trans World Airlines chairman Carl Icahn on Monday broke off talks with union leaders at Eastern Airlines regar-

NYSE Volume



ing a possible merger of the two carriers.

Mark Buckstein, the general counsel for TWA in New York, said Icahn has not made an offer to buy Eastern and does not expect to do so.

Operation

Eastern's profitable shuttle operation was sold to real estate developer Donald Trump for \$365 million late last week in a deal that brought immediate opposition from Eastern's unions.

The directors of manufacturing giant Interco Inc. on Thursday rejected a \$74 per share, \$2.6 billion takeover bid by Cardinal Acquisition Corp. as inadequate.

Cardinal, headed by brothers Steven and Mitchell Rales of Washington, D.C., had increased its offer from \$72 to \$74 earlier this month.

Among the companies reporting third-quarter earnings this week, American Telephone and Telegraph Co. reported a 16 per cent rise in earnings to \$587 million, or 55 cents a share, from \$505 million, or 47 cents a share, in the comparable year-ago period.

Bankamerica Corp., the nation's third-largest banking company, on Thursday reported earnings for the third quarter rose to \$190 million, or 97 cents a share, more than triple the \$54 million, or 25 cents a share, a year ago.

In the nine-month period, the bank reported earnings of \$461 million, compared with a \$1 billion loss for the same period in 1987, which included a \$1.1 billion addition to reserves against losses on foreign loans.

Leading OPEC ministers appeared unable on Friday to agree on new production quotas for the divided organisation at a second session of talks aimed at halting the sharp slide in world oil prices.

Dissension between Iran and Iraq over output ceilings continued to be a major stumbling block at the joint meeting in

Madrid of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' price and strategy committees.

Accord

OPEC secretary general Subroto of Indonesia indicated at a brief news conference before Friday's two-hour session that an accord was not at hand.

Lamar Hunt on Thursday handed a representative of Peru's state-owned mineral company, Minpeco, a \$17 million check to settle his portion of the \$130 million-plus verdict against the Hunt brothers of Dallas for conspiring to corner the world silver market.

Lamar and his brothers, Nelson Bunker and William Herbert, and several other defendants were accused by Minpeco S.A. of conspiring to corner the world silver market in late 1979 and early 1980.

Mexican congress to probe charges against former Pemex chief

MEXICO CITY, Oct. 22. (Reuters): The Mexican congress will investigate allegations of fraud against a former head of the state oil monopoly Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex), political sources said on Friday.

The charges were levelled against Mario Ramon Beteta, director-general of Pemex in 1982-86 and now governor of the state of Mexico for the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

Allegations

Coming during a sensitive transition period between outgoing President Miguel de La Madrid and his successor Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the charges are a big embarrassment to the PRI.

The allegations were heard in the chamber of deputies on Thursday only hours after Beteta met Salinas for consultations.

The charges, submitted by leaders of the Mexican oilworkers union, claim Beteta benefited from the fraudulent purchase of two Yugoslav-built ships in 1985.

The ships were allegedly valued at \$12.5 million each but bought for 19.5 million apiece. They were first leased from the Yugoslav shipyard.

The charter was approved by the Ministry of Planning and Budget, at a time when Salinas was the minister, but union leader Adolfo Barrientos Albaran said this authorisation was unrelated to the fraudulent acquisition.



Mohammed Merchant (fifth from left) of Hassan Jawhar Hayat & Sons Co., and public relations officer of Kuwait NRI Investors' Forum, hosted a farewell reception at his residence on Wednesday in honour of E. Sarangapani, the general manager of Kuwait Western Exchange Co. Sarangapani (fifth from right) is a highly experienced, widely known banker and investment analyst who has been working as a top executive in the exchange firm for the last four years. He is leaving Kuwait shortly to take up a job in a bank in India. Merchant and Sarangapani are pictured here with one other executive members of the NRI Investors' forum.

Arif, is it to

Jeepneys to be phased out in 4-5 years

PUBLIC utility jeeps in Metro Manila will be phased out as an effect of the development of a mass urban transportation system within four to five years, Metro Manila Governor Elfen Cruz announced recently.

Cruz said that Pook Batayan, a new traffic programme, is an "interim solution" pending full implementation.

Introduced last month, Pook Batayan has gained positive feedback after it reduced pedestrian and traffic violations up to 60 per cent, Cruz said.

Cruz attributed the success of Pook Batayan to the co-operation and financial support of the private sector and the specific delineation of duties and responsibilities of those assigned in Pook Batayan.

Jailed seaman sues Sri Lankan government

A FILIPINO seaman has filed a P130,000 moral damage suit against the Sri Lankan government after he was released from a Colombo jail on charges of drug-trafficking.

Philippine Ambassador to Colombo Antonio Ramirez reported to the Department of Foreign Affairs that Cipriano Madera, chief mate of M/V Taiyuan, was released after a Sri Lankan court found the charges against him lacked sufficient evidence.

Madera was arrested with two other crew members, Apolinio Dalagan and Jose Saulog, in December 1987, for allegedly bringing into that country two kilograms of heroine.

The heroine was found in the possession of Saulog.

Madera and Dalagan were ordered released last September. Saulog is still under investigation.

Madera sued the Sri Lankan government to redeem himself and to get justice for having been detained for months, Ramirez said.

Authorities seize illegal vehicles

CUSTOMS authorities resumed their campaign against illegal assembly plants manufacturing vehicles from imported parts and confiscated a total of 35 light trucks and vans from two plants in Quezon City.

Some P6 million worth of Isuzu Elf and Forward trucks and Toyota vans were seized from two unnamed plants in Cubao, Quezon City.

Aside from the 35th units of light trucks and vans, the authorities also seized 50 imported tires, fenders, car doors and seats.

Billy Bibit, leader of the raiding team, said that another plant in Valenzuela, Bulacan was raided, but its owner presented documents showing that proper duties and taxes have been paid for the trucks.

Marcos' cars still missing

EIGHT luxury cars turned over by the Bureau of Customs to Malacanang while Ferdinand Marcos was still president are missing.

The cars, which were in a list provided by customs ports operation chief Col Sindulfo Sebastian to the House sub-committee on the disposition of government-owned, acquired or assigned to former government officials which the customs bureau is trying to recover.

Among the cars missing are a Rolls Royce Phantom VI formerly used by Fe Roa Gimenez, former First Lady Imelda Marcos' personal secretary, and a Porsche Turbo assigned to the Presidential Security Command but last used by former Ambassador Eduardo Conjuangco Jr.

The other missing vehicles are a Mercedes Benz 300TD, Mercedes Benz 280 SE, a 1979 Porsche, a Range Rover, a 1982 Toyota Celica and a Buick Regal.

False alarm at customs

AN AIRPORT customs intelligence officer ran after but failed to catch up with a Chinese national who brought out of the country P130 million worth of US dollars and other currencies packed in four canvas bags.

The customs officer said he received a tip-off from an anonymous caller that the Chinese would smuggle a big amount of dollars.

Luckily, he was not able to intercept the money which turned out to be earnings of one Central Bank which will be deposited in a bank based in Hong Kong.

Rumour mills frighten off foreign investors

'Couplot industry' flourishing in Manila

By Robert H. Reid

MANILA (AP): Rumours of anti-government coups and counter-strategies with strange codenames have developed into a bizarre war of words fought in the nation's newspapers.

The flourishing "couplot industry" has become a soap opera for some readers. But not everybody is amused.

Some commentators and business sources worry that the tendency for such rumours to run unchecked in the news media frightens off already wary foreign investors by exaggerating political instability in the Philippines.

The latest such alleged episode in Corazon Aquino's 34-month presidency pits the pro-government "Pacman" against the anti-Aquino "Three Kings" — the "O" stands for "operation" — got its name from an alleged plot to topple Aquino around Jan 6, or the feast of the three kings,

several Manila newspapers reported.

Not to be outdone, Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon, the Manila area commander, announced "Operation Pacman," a counterintelligence operation to round up scores of alleged right-wing extremists linked to alleged plots which skeptics question even exist.

Nearly 80 right-wing suspects have been arrested in "Operation Pacman," named after the hungry computer game monster that gobbles up its adversaries.

Most newspaper commentators have dismissed "Oplan Three Kings" as a hoax, but not before it was widely reported in major dailies.

"The only casualty is the credibility of the media," wrote columnist Belinda Olivares-Camaman in the Philippine Daily Inquirer. "What the government should do is to give Oplan the treatment it deserves, which is to ignore it, and get on with running

the country."

"Oplan Three Kings" and earlier alleged anti-government plots all seem to be more memorable for their colourful names than for their success.

There was "Operation God Save The Queen," a 1986 conspiracy by dissident military officers to rid the government of alleged communists, curb presidential power and "save the queen" — Aquino — from "incompetent advisers."

That fizzled after Juan Ponce Enrile was fired as defence minister on Nov 23, 1986. Now a senator, Enrile accepted his dismissal despite previous threats to emulate the macho American film and "do a Rambo" if he were ousted from the cabinet.

Then came the "45 Days in September," a rumoured plot to sow confusion last month by a series of unspecified shows of strength. The only possible sign of the "45 days" was a brief fireworks display around military camps on Sept 25.

But the rumour mill promises

sequels: "October Fiesta" and "Gray November."

The most serious attempt to topple Aquino took place on Aug 28, 1987. It carried no codename and was not preceded by rumours of a new plot.

It ended with an assault on military headquarters by pro-government forces as the mutineers were fleeing. Witnesses said many of the attackers were firing into the air to avoid hitting fellow-soldier mutineers.

Assault

That prompted critics of the military in the Manila press to dub the assault "An acoustical War."

But while some people made light of it at home, that coup attempt apparently was considered more serious abroad.

In its wake, some Philippines business figures said that a number of Taiwanese investors had abandoned plans to invest in the Philippines. With a foreign debt of more than \$238 billion and other worrying economic

indicators, the country is sorely in need of all the help it can get from abroad.

Where the rumours or their names originate remains unclear. Biazon said "psychological experts" in the right-wing opposition are the source of most of them.

Teodoro Locsin, publisher of the Philippine daily Globe and Aquino's speechwriter, wrote that some are spread to discredit political and business rivals by hitting at their disloyalty.

"It leaves the subject of the innuendo helpless to deny accusations clearly directed at him but which do not particularly name him," Locsin wrote. "The whole town, of course, knows he is referred to."

Locsin claimed the "Oplan Three Kings" rumour was floated by national security adviser Emanuel Soriano and local government secretary Luis Santos as an excuse for delaying village elections.

Both Soriano and Santos deny spreading the rumour.

Heavy rains cause Metro flash-floods

MONSOON rains poured and continued almost the whole last week, causing flash-floods in Metro Manila and stranding hundreds of commuters.

Thirty per cent of the northern end of the metropolis was under water but no flood-related deaths were reported, police said.

Public works officials, however, saw something better in this recent flooding.

Jose Agustin, chief of the Department of Public Works and Highways maintenance division, said floodwaters in flood-prone areas quickly receded. He attributed this to the government's year-round drainage declogging.

Agustin noted it previously took days before floodwaters receded. "Now it takes only hours," he said.

He said that floodwaters in many of the metropolis' thoroughfares receded in three to four hours after the rain stopped.

DPWH teams haul out nearly 1,000 kilos of silt and debris during declogging work in flood-prone areas everyday, he said.

He admitted, however, that the DPWH has not yet found a means to prevent flooding.



Commuters devise their own method of transport during the flooding in Manila last week.

Good and bad traits of Filipino character revealed in study

By Sonia L. Atabag

EXCESSIVE concern for the family resulting in the lack of concern for the common good, is just one of the Filipino character traits revealed in a study of the Filipino character earlier this year.

The results of the study was released and discussed recently by Sen. Leila C. Shahani before administrators and faculty of the Philippine Women's University whose faculty development seminar tackled the theme The Filipino Character: What Can I Do: What I Can Make Others Do.

Lay theologian Dr Jose M. de Mesa of Maryhill School of Theology, Q.C. also spoke during the seminar sponsored by the PWU Faculty Club headed by Elaida Innocencia.

The lady senator who is now initiating the academic inquiry of the study for review by the senate disclosed that one of the reasons why our country remains to this day economically-strapped is because of our contradictory Filipino character.

The Filipino is likewise known for the kanya-kanya syndrome or talangka mentality named after the tendency of crabs in the basket to pull down one another.

"Intrigues, rumours and destructive criticism characterised this tendency," the study said.

This was further explained by Sen Shahani who said that this character is part of our extreme personalism.

In discussing this topic before the PWC community, she disclosed she wanted the study made "to help solve the social ills and strengthen the nation's moral fiber."

Lack of self-analysis and self-reflection is the last trait listed which the study explained is the tendency to be superficial which has been reinforced by an educational system that is more form than substance, and a legal system that tends to substitute law for reality.

Falling under the "good" traits of Filipinos as reflected in the study are:

- Camaraderie and feeling of closeness to one another which is the foundation for both unity and a sense of social justice through pakikiramdam (helpful to people's feelings), pakikiramay (helpful and generous in times of need) and pakikipagkapwa-tao (concern for others).
- Family orientation which means a "deep and genuine love for family manifested in respect for elders, care given to children, great sacrifices endured for the welfare of the family."
- Joy and humour or a "cheerful approach to life and its ups and downs; laughing at ourselves and the mess we are in. This shows emotional balance and optimism and the capacity to survive."
- Flexibility, adaptability, and creativity.
- Hardwork and industry.
- Faith and religiosity. Ability to survive which is manifested in the "Filipino's capacity for endurance despite difficult times, and in the millions of Filipinos who bravely live through the harshest economic and social circumstances."
- The task force recommended for adoption realistic and manageable strategies for change, one of which is a national ideology to lift national morale, pride and productivity and Filipinisation of the educational system.

It also recommended the writing and teaching of true Philippine history and its inclusion in education and cultural traditions and the nurturing of community museums, histories retold and cultural groups revived.

The results of the study conducted by a task force led by Dr Patricia Licman of the Ateneo de Manila University concluded that "there is much that is good in us, but there is much that needs to be changed. It is also clear that many of our strong points are also the source of weakness."

Among the wrong traits listed are the extreme personalism which makes the Filipino "uncomfortable with bureaucracy, with rules and regulations and with standard procedures and the lack of discipline which means a "casual attitude toward time and space, manifested in lack of precision and compulsiveness, in poor management."

The former trait leads to graft and corruption evident in Philippine society, while the latter results in lack of standardisation and quality control.

Weaknesses

Other weaknesses of Filipino include passivity and lack of initiative and colonial mentality which the study indicates has two dimensions, namely: an actual preference for things foreign and lack of patriotism or an active awareness, appreciation and love of country.

Sen. Shahani explained that these traits can be traced to our colonial past, the result of which make us tend to just wait to be told what to do, rely on others and be complacent with a lack of a sense of urgency.

Leah's Omani odyssey

By Leah C. Salterio

THE first thing one notices upon seeing Leah Navarro these days, is her excellent tan.

When asked how she manages to keep her skin colour, Leah disclosed, "I spend most of my free time in the morning just tanning. The minute the sun comes out, I'm already under the sun."

The next thing that will catch your attention, is the unusual colour of her spiked hairstyle. With streaks of silver and violet, Leah says it's called "eggplant."

Then too, upon engaging in a lengthy conversation with her, you'll find out that Leah Navarro talks a lot!



Leah Navarro: dedicated to her craft

Leah seems unstoppable in narrating all her concert performances abroad. Of late, she had decided to concentrate more in singing outside the country, with past shows in Australia (with Marco Sison), Bahrain, Kuala Lumpur and the US.

Somewhere along the way, she was able to spend a short vacation in Canada, where she stayed with her mother.

More recently, Leah also invaded the Middle East, with a number of concerts in Muscat, Oman. Her eyes light up when she talks of her "Omani Odyssey," and she wouldn't hesitate to go there again, if given another chance.

Reviewing her geography, Leah says that Oman is one of the Gulf countries and the second largest country in the Middle East.

It is also the place where myth and frankincense (gifts of the Magi to Baby Jesus) come from.

"The Omanis are very much like the Filipinos," Leah notes. "They are kind and hospitable. On the other hand, Filipinos in Oman are very nice. They may have a very busy worklife, but they still smile. Their lives are not at all difficult, except for the emotional loss."

Ronnie Henares was the one responsible for bringing Leah to the Muscat territory. (Henares is known for marketing Filipino entertainers abroad).

He presented a list of singers to Ahmed Said, the general manager of Seeb Novotel in Muscat. Without knowing who Leah Navarro really is, Said asked her to perform in their hotel.

Originally, Leah was only supposed to do a two-night, dinner-concert for the Filipino audience at the 500-seater auditorium of Seeb Novotel.

As planned too, she was scheduled to stay in Oman for four days only. But after her first show, however, things just never expected to happen, took place. She was requested to perform for two more nights and she stayed in Oman for ten days!

During her first performance, Leah's audience comprised 80 per cent Filipinos; 10 per cent Omanis; and the other 10 foreigners.

With her concert tickets priced at six rials (around P500 each), the place had no seat unoccupied. Commented Mr Said: "This was the first time that any entertainer was able to fill the auditorium."

We've had a number of concerts done here before, but attendance-wise, they were not so successful. I don't know what's in this girl (Leah) that makes people flock here just to see her."

On the second night, Leah reveals that they had to hire bouncers in the place, "because we had to turn down more than 200 people."

Leah also speaks proudly of her special performance for the Omani prince, who requested her to sing in a private party composed of 50 guests.

Leah remembers having 12 different nationalities at one time in her audience. "Parang United Nations conference, nakakatuwa talaga," she remarks.

Her repertoire included songs of the late '70s, jazz tunes and her OPM hits. She always makes it a point to sing What I Did for Love for the finale. "It's an artist's song," Leah states, "It embodies my every reason for singing. It helps me become more sincere in my performance."

One most memorable incident for Leah at Seeb Novotel, was during her final concert night. A man from the audience presented her with a gold necklace and said, "You're the best!"

"I really cried after that," the entertainer recalls. "It never happened to me in my 11 years of performing here in our country. That's why I said to myself, 'If a prophet is not loved in her own country, make hay where you're needed!'"

When asked if she has plans of settling down, Leah comments, "All these travels keep me from marrying. If I get a husband, he has to be someone who also likes to travel. Anyway, I think there's still no hurry."

Leah is scheduled to leave for Europe sometime next month. As she admits, "After Oman, I'm ready for another 11 years of performing, unless things are just destined to change."

Gold rush on again

By Danny Hernandez

GEOLOGISTS of Mines and Geosciences Bureau and the Philippine National Petroleum Centre disclosed recently that Irish and Australian investors have quietly arrived in the country to invest heavily in a multi-million gold production venture.

Guillermo R. Balce, director of the bureau, said the entry into the country by gold prospectors was "due to the advantage our country enjoys over other countries with regard to geographical position."

"This means we have a high potential in gold deposits as compared with other countries because the Philippines is situated along the border of the Pacific, the geological studies disclosed that earth crust along the border of the Pacific is capable of generating gold."

Alfredo Troncales, manager for mineral exploration of the Philippine National Petroleum Centre (PNPC) situated inside Ford Bonifacio, Makati, confirmed the foreign investors' arrival.

"We have a joint venture, but I cannot name the particular company they represent at the moment, we might come out with a complete report much later, yes, they are here for our gold deposits," he said.

Troncales, a geologist, said with this development, the government should have a system of mining operations or else "we might waste gold ores with so many gold panners and many small-scale mining going on."

Director Balce said the bureau is "being helped by Secretary Fulgencio Factoran, Jr., of the Department of Environment

and Natural Resources, in seeking the passage of the People's Mining Law," so that deserving small scale miners can be protected. Also, according to our present law, only Filipino citizens are allowed to be engaged in subsistence mining (small-scale mining). However, foreigners are allowed to engage in gold panning."

Troncales, suggested that instead of concentrating on higher revenues, the government must come up with a sophisticated technology system in gold production.

Senior Australian Trade Commissioner to the Philippines Geoff Gray recently said that Australian investors were showing a lot of interest in joint ventures with Philippine companies, particularly in mining and manufacturing.

Director Balce identified gold-rich areas in Abra, Benguet, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Davao del Norte, Isabela, Leyte, Masbate, Nueva Vizcaya, Pampanga, Surigao del Norte and Zamboanga del Norte.

Balce said our total gold reserves in 1986 was 101,919,728 metric tons with a grade of 2.33 grammes of gold per metric tons. In 1987 — 101,556,592 metric tons with a grade of 2.35 grammes of gold per metric ton.

Balce said about 40 per cent of the total gold production of small-scale miners does not go to the Central Bank.

"The potential for gold in the country is very high. It is really not difficult for us to double our present gold production of 35 tons per year to about 70 tons per year. Other government revenues are still needed," Balce said.

Santiago threatens to quit

IMMIGRATION Commissioner Miriam Santiago said she would resign if Congress invalidates her alien legalisation programme.

Santiago said it would also be an embarrassment for the executive department if Congress stops the programme which was authorised by President Aquino. Santiago drafted Aquino's executive order.

"This (programme) has become highly-visible and controversial. If Congress disapproves it, then the principal architect of the programme must be removed before she commits more mischief," Santiago said.

"In fact, if there's a clash in the opinions of the CID and Congress, it should be the opinion of Congress which should prevail. I'm only a subordinate and I have no more right to remain in this administration if the programme is invalidated," she added.



Miriam Santiago: fears about aliens are unfounded

She said some senators do not fully understand the salient features of the legalisation as can be seen in their reactions.

"They are alarmed about the possible influx of aliens. What influx are they talking about? The illegal aliens are already here. And not all can apply for legalisation since the cut-off date in order to qualify is 1984," the commissioner said.

Santiago bewailed the fact that all her innovative measures to curb corruption at CID for which she was given the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for public service came under fire from legislators.

Controversy over use of Filipino language

REP. Renaro A. Yap (LDP, QC) the other day caused a stir in the privilege hour of the House of Representatives when he delivered his first privilege speech supporting President Corazon Aquino's Executive Order No. 335 requiring the use of Filipino in government communications.

Yap said President Aquino's EO 335 was a "welcome and heartening development for it brings the issue of the national language down to the line of implementation of action."

He cited the vital role of the national language in economic, political and social development and scored those who oppose the President's directive for looking at the issue from a "narrow perspective."

Yap said the use of Filipino as the national language mandated by the 1986 Constitution, was necessary for national under-

standing and unity.

He decried what he called the "vicious circle of angry talk that is preventing us from having a national language... the doubts and vacillation that keep us divided as a people" and urged the government to continue to use Filipino so that the national language may "evolve," as the constitution mandates.

Rep. Salvador Escudero (KBL, Sorsogon) sprang to intercept Yap, also in Filipino. He beat several other congressmen to the microphone, specially Rep. Pablo Garcia (LDP, Cebu) who was arguing in Cebuano that he be recognised by the chair.

Another congressman Rep. Juanito Camasura (LDP, Davao) objected to Yap's use of Filipino in his privilege hour speech. He threatened to leave the session to dramatise his protest.

Filipino-born pianist wins rave reviews

Cecile: in tune with her roots

But the 26-year-old piano phenomenon from the Philippines isn't the type who keeps a scorecard of her success. After the applause and the standing ovation, her thoughts abruptly change from piano score to her Brazilian cellist-husband, Antonio Meneses (a gold medalist in the Tchaikovsky Competition), and one-year-old baby, Ottavio, who like his celebrity mother leads a transatlantic life from New York to Europe.

But in her New York apartment, Cecile is just an ordinary mother who wakes up before eight and fusses about her baby, with whom she and her husband play everyday.

She plans the day's menu, supervises the baby's meals and then rehearses for two and a half hours. "I would say that she is as meticulous about her schedule as her surgeon-father," says her mother Ms Rosario Licad, herself a pianist but who gave it all up to attend to the major talent in the family.

After putting her baby to sleep, Cecile sets aside thoughts on Brahms and Beethoven to watch her favourite soap opera "All My Children" and "General Hospital."

She probably will not win a gold medal as mother and wife, but as a performer, she will probably outlive and outshine

even the best in the field.

Writes Ackhard Albrecht of Allgemeine Zeitung in Germany: "The concert with Cecile Licad surpasses (considering our cultural standard) all that has been heard so far. The Stadteater has so far experienced so many good and impressive piano evenings: with Elizabeth Leonskaja who so deeply moved the audience and somehow overshadowed other performers; with Shura Cherkassky... Homero Franceschi... Igor Shukow... and not the least with Martha Argerich whose extraordinary brilliancy remains for always here with us. Yet not one of these piano evenings was comparable to Cecile Licad. Only a

few other performances could procure the enjoyment — a truly lived and felt one!... as she did in Sonata Op. 31 by Beethoven. It absolutely reached the highest level of perfection."

Licad's third recording this time with violinist Nadia Sonnenberg under the EMI-Angel label is now available and she is about to record her third CBS record album.

The latest from the celebrated Meneses couple is that both are making a spectacular Christmas debut at the Manila Metropolitan Theatre on December 20, with one move-over engagement to Baguio City, December 28.

"After a gruelling year," says Rosario Licad, "Cecile's thoughts always turn to home, home, home, where she can be with her family. Success has not Westernized her relationship with her roots."



Musical team: internationally-acclaimed pianist Cecile Licad and husband cellist Antonio Meneses.

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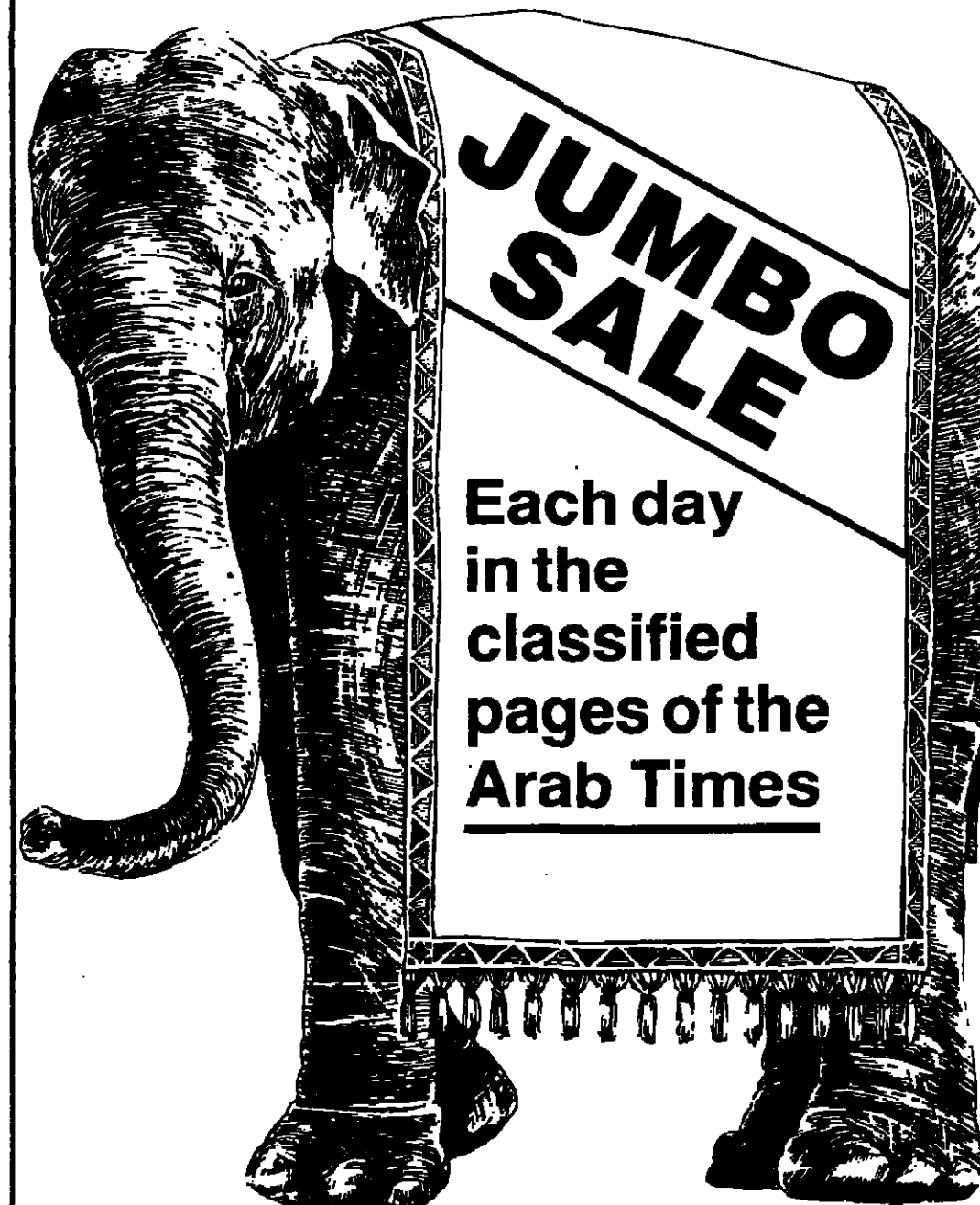
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Kasparov shares Cup lead

REYKJAVIK, Oct. 22, (Reuters): Soviet world champion Garry Kasparov moved into joint first place after defeating Hungarian Gyula Sax in the fifteenth round of the World Cup chess tournament in Iceland.

Kasparov, playing white in yesterday's game, shared first place with fellow Soviet Alexander Beljavsky with two rounds left to play in the \$100,000 tournament.

Kasparov held the better position all the time and Sax resigned after 32 moves.

Beljavsky was held to a draw with Victor Korchnoi. Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman seemed badly off form and lost easily to former world champion Mikhail Tal in a game lasting only 20 moves.

Tal, who led the tournament in earlier rounds, moves up the ladder to joint third with another Soviet player, Jean Ehlvest.

Results in round 15:

Jonathan Speelman (Britain) drew with Margie Petrusson (Iceland).

Zoltan Ribli (Hungary) drew with Ulf Andersson (Sweden).

Lajos Portisch (Hungary) drew with Artur Jussupov (Soviet Union).

Johann Hjartarson (Iceland) beat Predrag Nikolic (Yugoslavia).

Andrei Sokolov (Soviet Union) drew with Jan Ehlvest (Soviet Union).

Garry Kasparov (Soviet Union) beat Gyula Sax (Hungary).

Mikhail Tal (Soviet Union) beat Jan Timman (The Netherlands).

Victor Korchnoi (Switzerland) drew with Alexander Beljavsky (Soviet Union).

John Nunn (Britain) drew with Boris Spassky (France).

Leading positions: Kasparov and Beljavsky 9.5, Tal and Ehlvest 9, Hjartarson 8.5.

BECKER POWERS PAST MATUSZEWSKI

Fitzgerald stuns Edberg for final



Becker: confident of win in final

TOKYO, Oct. 22, (UPI): Boris Becker will face Australian John Fitzgerald in the final of the \$617,500 Japan Indoor Men's Championships after both scored straight sets wins today.

Becker sustained an early challenge from unseeded American Richard Matuszewski before powering his way into the final 7-6, 6-1, while Fitzgerald upset top seed and defending champion Stefan Edberg 7-6, 6-0.

The Swede got off to an early start by breaking Fitzgerald's serve in the first game of the match and later led 5-3, but the sixth seed staged a comeback and forced a tiebreaker.

Delay At that stage the lights at the Yoyogi Olympic stadium blew a fuse and went out which resulted in a 44-minute delay. On returning Edberg lost the tiebreak 7-2 and with it his timing as he became frustrated with his own play.

"I lost interest and couldn't do anything," said Edberg. "He was playing well and I couldn't hit my backhand. I am not happy, I can tell you that."

Fitzgerald played "gusty" tennis. He returned very well and kept the pressure on Edberg by hitting the ball very solidly. The Australian said he felt very sharp and fresh on court and he looked

confident with his shots.

The final will be the third meeting between Becker and Fitzgerald with the West German holding a 2-0 career lead.

"It is really exciting to be in the final and I am looking forward to it," said Fitzgerald. "I like playing in Tokyo and this event is one of the most popular on the tour. If I play as well as I did against Edberg, then it will be an interesting match."

Becker, meanwhile, experienced frustrations in the first set when he lost opportunities to take an early service break and assert his dominance. Matuszewski weathered the pressure the West German was exerting in the fourth game of the first set and came up with some solid serve/volley tennis.

"I had chances in the first set, but he played great tennis," said Becker. "I did not make too many mistakes, but I thought I better concentrate harder and him under pressure."

Matuszewski broke serve in the eleventh game of the first set with an immaculate topspin overhead that even Becker acknowledged. That winner gave the American the chance to serve for the set, but Becker played some big returns to force a tiebreaker, which he closed out 7-5.

Becker was distracted momentarily during the match with

separate incidents. The first was when a person in the crowd of 7,400 was escorted out after he kept calling "Boris Becker ichiban" (number one). Then, two pigeons, trapped in the vast Yoyogi Olympic stadium, flew about till they found a resting place.

The West German meanwhile found his composure and broke Matuszewski's serve in the first game of the second set. He started serving bullets at the slightly built American and from there it was a one horse race and the match ended in an hour and four minutes.

Worked "I decided to give him the chance to make the mistakes, instead of me taking the risks and it worked," said Becker.

"I was quick around the court and I was very happy with that."

Becker was getting himself pumped up by clenching his fist and shuffling his feet in a rhythm that has become recognised as the "Becker boogie." He said the foot injuries that kept him out of the game for six weeks have not bothered him, and that he is confident of regaining the form that took him to the finals of Wimbledon in July.

Becker said he is confident he can win the Japan indoor men's title for the second time in three years.



Shriver: overwhelmed her opponent

Shriver and Maleeva cruise into semifinals

ZURICH, Oct. 22, (Agencies): Top-seeded American Pam Shriver moved smoothly into the semifinals of the European Indoor Tennis Championship by beating unseeded Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands 6-3, 6-3 in under an hour yesterday.

Shriver, promoted to top seed after the late withdrawal of world number one Steffi Graf who won here last year, overwhelmed Schultz with her formidable serve and volley game.

Sweet Earlier, third-seeded Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria hardly broke sweat in beating her younger sister Katarina.

In a match neither of them wanted to win, third-seeded Maleeva defeated Katarina 6-2, 6-2 to qualify for the semifinals.

It was the seventh tournament encounter between the sisters and 19-year-old Katarina, ranked 15th in the world, has yet to win a set against 21-year-old Manuela, the world No. 8.

"Not many people in this competitive field understand that we have grown up together and are such a closely-knit family that neither of us wants to win. But in

sports, there has to be a winner," said Manuela.

"I feel awful when I win, but what can you do?" she added.

Katarina commented: "Each time, it gets worse."

"We had the same coach, we play a similar style, but I'm more emotional," said Katarina.

"I keep my emotions inside me and try to remain calm," said Manuela, who has obtained Swiss citizenship since marrying Francois Fragniere last fall.

"That was a change. Now I have my husband to travel with me and to coach me," said Manuela. "Now my mother accompanies Katarina and we try to play different tournaments."

Witness Neither coach was present for the match. Mother Manuela just looked in for a short time and disappeared. Neither wanted to witness the family drama. Yet there is more to come, as 13-year-old Magdalena Maleeva is touted as another great talent.

In the other quarter-final involving seeds West German Claudia Kohde-Kilsch, seeded four, beat Raffaella Reggi of Italy, the eighth seed, 6-1, 7-5.

Bird takes Celtics past Yugoslavs

MADRID, Oct. 22, (UPI): The Boston Celtics used a 30-13 spurt at the start of the second half to break open a close game and crush the Yugoslavian national team 113-85 in the semifinals of a four-nation basketball tournament yesterday.

Larry Bird scored 27 points and Kevin McHale added 21 points and 11 rebounds to lead the Celtics, who reasserted American basketball supremacy three weeks after the United States stumbled to its worst Olympic finish with a bronze medal while Yugoslavia captured the silver.

Boston will face tournament host Real Madrid, which defeated Scavolini Pesaro of Italy 108-96 in the other semifinal, in tomorrow's championship game.

The Celtics struggled in the first quarter and led by only six points at the half, but their depth and defence helped bury Yugoslavia in the third quarter as they showed signs of the up-tempo game new Boston coach Jimmy Rodgers wants to implement.

"At halftime we went in and I thought there was a real different attitude in the locker room," Rodgers said. "We were challenged and we had to adjust."

Confused The Yugoslavians, who showed excellent jumping ability and used their aggressiveness to drive through the middle of the Celtic defence in the first half, sorely missed team leader and top scorer Drazen Petrovic, who is playing for Real Madrid in the tournament.

Forward Zarko Paspalj, whose quick moves to the basket left Bird confused in the first half, led the Yugoslavs with 18 points. Stojan Vranovic, a 2.17-metre (7-foot-2) centre who signed a contract with the Celtics last spring but has not yet decided whether to play in the United States, scored only four points and was outplayed on both ends of the court by veteran Celtic centre Robert Parish.

The game was surrounded by a festive atmosphere that included a small but noisy group of green-clad Celtics fans and other bits of Americana including the dancing and other court-side antics of the Chickens ("El Pollo") and the scantily clad Memphis State University cheerleaders, who drew incredulous stares from the Yugoslavian players.

Meanwhile the head of the International Amateur Basketball Federation said yesterday he is confident his organisation will vote in April to allow NBA players to compete in international competitions such as the Olympics.

Borislav Stankovic, secretary-general of FIBA, also said he opposes a proposal by the Soviet Union to place a limit of two professional players on each national team and thinks it will be defeated by his group.

Even though a proposal to allow NBA players into international tournaments was defeated by FIBA in 1986, Stankovic said he now expects basketball to follow a trend set by sports such as tennis and hockey, which this year allowed professionals in the Olympics.

Sunshine Forever tipped to win

LAUREL, MD., Oct. 22, (Reuters): American entry Sunshine Forever is favoured to overcome the anticipated challenge of a strong European field and win the 37th running of the \$750,000 D.C. International horse race tomorrow.

Eight of the 14 starters in this prestigious 1-1/4-mile turf race are from Europe, including a representative of the Soviet Union for the second consecutive year.

Rim, a three-year-old colt that is only the second Soviet horse to

run in the United States since 1966, is considered an extreme long shot at the Laurel racecourse.

But Squill, a French colt, and Most Welcome, an English colt, are highly regarded and expected to give 2-1 favourite Sunshine Forever a run for his money.

Ridden

There are six US entries, four from France, two from Britain and one each from Poland and the Soviet Union. Sunshine Forever, to be ridden

by veteran jockey Angel Cordero, posted impressive victories in his last two starts at New York's Belmont Park, making the three-year-old colt the horse to beat.

But Briton Geoff Wragg, trainer of Most Welcome, believes his horse has a realistic chance of taking the \$450,000 winner's prize.

"I give my horse excuses for his last two races," said Wragg of his colt's recent disappointments. "I believe he'll give a better account of himself in this race."

Hayes settles for three-way tie

PENSACOLA, Fla., Oct. 22, (Reuters): Mark Hayes lost sole possession of first place with a double bogey on the final hole and had to settle for a three-way tie for the lead of the \$400,000 Pensacola Open golf tournament yesterday.

Hayes, one of five players tied for the lead after the first round, found himself alone atop the leader board at the mid-way point of the second round.

But his miserable showing on the 18th hole gave him a three-under-par 69 for a nine-under 135 total which was equalled by John Cook and Scott Hoch.

The Byrum brothers, Curt and

Tom, and Ken Green and Lance Ten Broeck were a shot back of the leaders at eight-under 136.

Tom Byrum matched the course record with a brilliant second round of eight-under-par 64.

Dan Pohl, Howard Twitty and Ray Stewart were tied at seven-under-par 137.

Hayes, who won here in 1976, was five-under-par for the day after an eagle and three birdies.

"I had a very makeable putt of about 13 feet for a birdie at the 17th hole. I thought if I made it it would give me another 66 and I'd go 12-under-par," Hayes said.

Norman takes two-shot Open lead



Norman: survived an inquiry

SYDNEY, Oct. 22, (Reuters): World golf number one Greg Norman survived an inquiry, set up after television cameras showed his ball being moved by a spectator, to seize a two-stroke lead in the New South Wales Open Championship today.

Mastering a swirling westerly wind, Norman finished his third round with a two-under-par 69 for a total of 204 to take over as pacemaker from defending champion and fellow Australian Craig Parry, who carded a 72 for 206.

Inquiry

Norman was then stunned to be called before a match committee inquiry into an incident on the 10th hole.

Television cameras showed a young spectator moving the Australian's ball to a better lie away from greenside trees following his second shot. Norman, unaware of what had happened, played on and recorded a bogey five.

However, match committee chairman Bruce Nairn announced that the matter was closed after watching a video of the incident, speaking to people who

saw it, and questioning Norman and his caddie.

"Greg Norman's integrity is beyond reproach as far as I'm concerned and if both he and his caddie said they were unaware, then that's the end of the matter," Nairn said at a press conference.

Nairn added that his decision was covered in the rules of golf. Norman said he was mystified when he was approached by the match committee before handing in his third-round card.

"I wondered what they were talking about — my mind was racing, thinking what had happened out there," he said.

"I went through every hole in five seconds and thought of all the situations — I didn't know what had happened. Nobody told us — if someone had moved my ball I would have gladly put it back and taken my chances."

The controversy came at the end of a day of which Norman finally made his mark on the tournament. His four birdies and two bogeys were enough to help claim an advantage over Parry, who slumped to his first above-par round of the event.

Jahangir beats Kenyon for semifinals

SEATTLE, Oct. 22, (Reuters): Top seed Jahangir Khan of Pakistan reached the US Open squash championship semifinals yesterday after dropping the first game of a 90-minute match to eighth-seeded Phil Kenyon of England.

Kenyon combined forcing shots with straight drops and drives to take the first game 15-12, but Jahangir swept back with games of 15-7, 15-6 and 15-9.

Unseeded Chris Dittmar of Australia, the second seed, became the only player to reach the semifinals without losing a game. He beat unseeded Ahmed Taher 15-9, 15-4, 15-8 after the Egyptian had reached the quarterfinals by upsetting the fifth and 14th seeds in the first two rounds.

England's Jamie Hickox, the 13th seed, dropped one game but upset fourth seed Umar Hayat Khan of Pakistan 15-11, 15-13, 12-15, 15-6.

In an all-Australian quarter-final, third-seeded Rodney Martin beat his sixth-seeded brother Brett 15-12, 13-15, 15-12, 15-6.

Mason defies effects of cold to share lead

LA MOYE, Jersey, Oct. 22, (Reuters): Carl Mason shrugged off the effects of a bad cold to grab a share of the second-round lead in the Jersey Open golf championship yesterday.

Dosed up with medicine to combat possible influenza, Mason fired a 68, which included an eagle three at the 11th, for a 134 total to lead jointly with fellow-Briton Stephen Bennett.

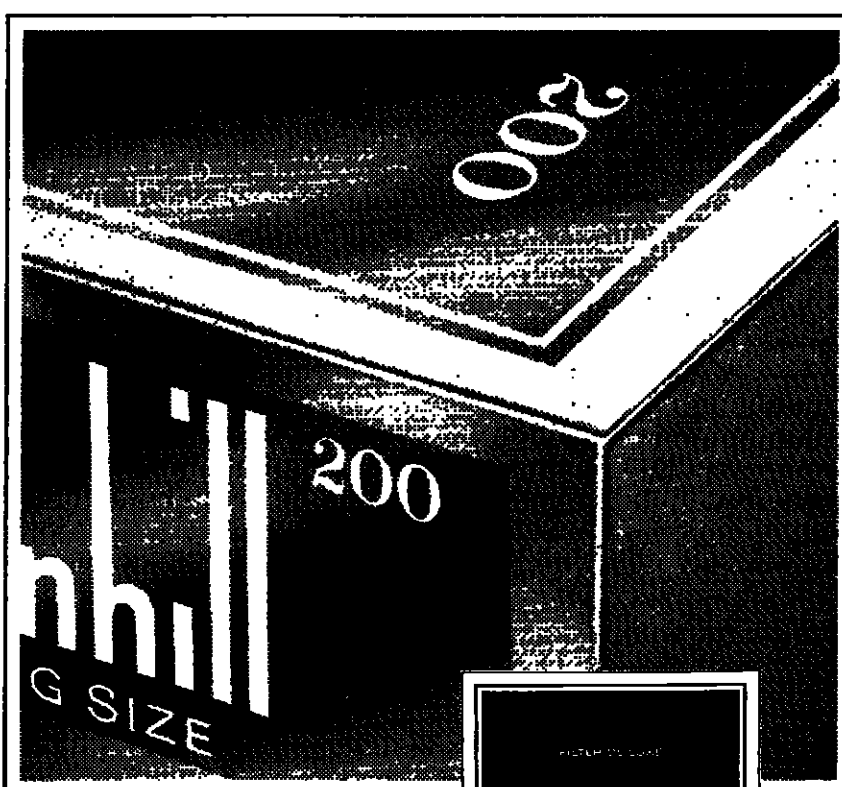
I had a dreadful cold for about two-and-a-half weeks and shook it off not long ago," said Mason. "Now I've got another one and my legs feel very weak," he said after remaining on course for his first win on the European tour.

Course Joint first-round leader Bennett allowed Mason to join him at the top of the leaderboard after shooting a 70.

Chris Moody, who shared the first day's lead with Bennett after the pair each shot a course record breaking 64, dropped a stroke off the pace by returning a 71.

Moody was level with another Briton, Tony Charnley, who, helped by his caddie wife Lucienne, returned the day's lowest round of 67.

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